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SUPERMAN

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

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SUPERMAN: HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

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Action Comics #1064 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

THE UNIVERSE HAS REVEALED ITSELF TO ME.

I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW.

AND YET...

...SOMETHING IS MISSING...

GOOD MORNING, METROPOLIS!

OKAY, LET'S GET THIS DAY STARTED OFF *RIGHT*...

SATURDAY

Lois's first day off in years, Leave me alone!

LOIS LANE.

Pete Ross mix tape. Lois only. No Clarks allowed.

HOPE YOU'RE READY FOR ME!

I GOT NEXT GAME.

NO WAY!

MAKE SURE YOU TAKE CARE OF THOSE TWO RASCALS!

WE WILL!

CONNER KENT. CLONE OF SUPERMAN AND LEX LUTHOR.

OTHO-RA AND OSUL-RA. SUPER-TWINS.

KONG KENAN. SUPER-MAN OF CHINA.

GOOD LUCK ON YOUR DATE, KARA!

EPIC HIGH FIVE

THANKS! I'M GONNA NEED IT!

KARA ZOR-EL. SUPERGIRL.

CONGRATULATIONS, LANA AND JOHN!

LANA LANG. SUPERWOMAN.

NATASHA IRONS. STEEL.

JOHN HENRY IRONS. RUNS STEELWORKS, RECENTLY ENGAGED TO LANA.

LOIS! WE NEED TO TALK.

WE SURE DO, PERRY, AND WE WILL.

BUT NOT TODAY.

VOTE FOR PERRY

PERRY WHITE. RUNNING FOR MAYOR.

RON TROUPE. REPORTER.

TODAY IS MY DAY!

CORBEN

JOHN CORBEN.
METALLO.
STEELWORKS SUB-BASEMENT ZERO.

LUNCH IS ON ME, MS. LANE!

I'LL TAKE YOU UP ON THAT LATER, *BIBBO!*

AW THERE YA GO, HUNGRY FELLA.

RUDY JONES.
PARASITE.
SUPERCORP R&D.

OH, THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVORITE SONGS!

CAN'T THE *DAILY PLANET* JUST HIRE SOMEONE TO TRANSCRIBE THIS FOR ME?

LESLIE WILLIS.
LIVEWIRE.
STRYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.

LANE, LOOKIN'--

I WILL END YOU, LOMBARD!

NOTHING FUNNY, *LUTHOR.* YOUR LAWYER MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN YOU THIS WORK RELEASE, BUT I'M NOT TRUSTING YOU...

CHIEF KEKOA.

LEX LUTHOR.
INMATE.

SUPERCORP TOWER REHABILITATION UNIT.

CENTENNIAL PARK

...I'M TRUSTING MS. GRAVES.

LENA.

LEX.

=SIGH= YOU CAN STILL CALL ME *FATHER...*

"...I ONLY WANT TO HELP."

CENTENNIAL PARK

LOIS!

JIMMY OLSEN. ACE PHOTOGRAPHER.

SIOBHAN SMYTHE. ACE SINGER. SILVER BANSHEE.

YOU MADE IT! I WAS WORRIED THIS WOULD BE TOO EARLY FOR YOU.

NO WAY, WE'RE *MORNING PEOPLE.*

OH, *JIMMY,* STOP.

JIMMY TOLD ME YOU NEVER TAKE DAYS OFF, LOIS. WHY IS TODAY DIFFERENT?

I'LL LET CLARK TELL YOU.

WHERE *IS* CLARK?

YOU KNOW MY HUSBAND...

"...HE HAS HIS *OWN* MORNING WORKOUT."

LOOK!

WHOA!

SUPERMAN! HIGH FIVE!

WOW, YOU'RE STRONG, SON.

YES!

HONEY!

AM I LATE?!

WHAT. ARE. YOU. WEARING?

YOU SAID IT WAS FOR YOGA?

HEY, CLARK, WE GOTTA QUESTION.

YEAH, WHY IS TODAY SPECIAL? WHY IS THIS THE ONLY DAY LOIS REALLY TAKES OFF?

OH, SHE DIDN'T TELL YOU?

TODAY IS THE DAY THAT--

GO ON, HONEY...

...CLARK... WHAT--?

GET TO SAFETY. **NOW.**

CONNER, KENAN, AND LANA, KEEP TO THE SKYLINE.

I'M NEEDED ON THE GROUND.

KA-FIT

THOOOM!

YOU KNOW THE DRILL, PEOPLE.

GET TO THE STEELWORKS EVACUATION TUNNELS AND BOMB SHELTERS. WE NEED TO GET UNDERGROUND BEFORE--

MS. LANE, IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU TOOK YOUR OWN ADVICE!

I DON'T RUN FROM A STORY OR DANGER, SUPERMAN.

SUPERMAN, NATASHA AND I TRIED TO GET A SIGNAL OUT OF THE CITY FOR BACKUP, BUT SOMETHING IS INTERFERING WITH OUR SYSTEMS!

THESE ARE *CZARNIANS*, RIGHT?

I THOUGHT LOBO'S PEOPLE WERE ALL *DEAD*.

YA THOUGHT WRONG, YA BASTICHES!

I HIGHLY DOUBT THE MAIN MAN WANTED A VISIT FROM HIS LONG-LOST FAMILY.

HOW ABOUT WE SHOW YOU HOW ALIVE WE ARE, BLONDIE?!

THEY DIDN'T COME ALONE. LOOK AT THE DRONES FIGHTING ALONGSIDE THEM. THIS IS THE WORK OF...

BRAINIAC.

YOU HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE WITH HIM THAN I DO, SUPERGIRL...

I'VE SEEN HIM ATTACK AND STEAL A CITY FIRSTHAND, SUPERMAN. IT'S BEEN COLD AND UNCARING.

BRUTAL BUT STRATEGIC.

BUT THIS IS NOT HIS STYLE. THIS IS...

...CHAOS.

INDEED.

GENERAL CHACAL.

EXECUTE PHASE TWO.

"BRING ME THE SMARTEST PERSON ON THIS PLANET."

GET TO BATTLE STATIONS! SUPERMAN IS GOING TO NEED *SUPERCORP'S* HELP IN A BIG WAY.

METROPOLIS IS OUR HOME, TOO. AND WE NEED TO PROTECT IT.

THIS SOME KIND OF ESCAPE PLAN, LEX?

HOW DARE YOU.

WHOA. THERE ARE SO MANY... THIS CITY *CANNOT* GET A BREAK...

THOSE LOBOS ARE *MADNESS*, BUT THE BRAINIAC DRONES WILL BE *FOCUSED.*

YOU DID THIS, DIDN'T YOU?!

WE NEED TO GET YOU OUT OF METROPOLIS *NOW,* LENA!

WHY? WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

IT'S TOO LATE, LUTHOR. YOU HAVE ALREADY LOST.

WH-WHAT IS *THIS?*

LL-01? HE IS A DATABASE FULL OF YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

YOU SET IT UP WHEN YOU PUT SUPERMAN IN CHARGE.

I DID NO SUCH THING.

TSK TSK TSK

I WAS ALWAYS FASCINATED BY YOUR OWN QUEST FOR *POWER.* I NEVER REALLY UNDERSTOOD YOUR OBSESSION WITH IT.

UNTIL NOW.

KNOWLEDGE EQUALS POWER.

THEREFORE POWER EQUALS KNOWLEDGE.

AND BECAUSE OF THE ***LAST SON OF KRYPTON,*** THERE IS MORE POWER WITHIN METROPOLIS THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, ***BRAINIAC?***

YEARS AGO, WHEN YOU AND I WORKED TOGETHER, YOU GLIMPSED SOMETHING IN MY MIND, DIDN'T YOU?

YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS, BUT IT ***SCARED YOU.***

WHAT WILL SUPERMAN DO WHEN HE REALIZES THAT YOU GAVE HIM YOUR RESOURCES AND TRIGGERED YOUR OLD ENEMIES IN HOPES OF PREPARING HIM FOR WHAT COMES ***NEXT?***

TIME TO PARTY!

I'D LIKE TO GO ONE WEEK WITHOUT SOMEONE BREAKING INTO THIS BUILDING!

MERCY, GET LENA OUT OF HERE!

BLAST!

WZZZZ

WZZZZ

NO!

MR. LUTHOR?!

DAD, WHAT IS...

...HAPPENING...

ZZZPT!

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BRAINIAC.

WHATEVER YOU WANT, TAKE ME AND I'LL GIVE IT TO YOU.

JUST *STOP* THIS.

I HAVE YOUR DAUGHTER, LUTHOR.

THE ONLY THING I NEED FROM *YOU*...

...IS YOUR HEAD.

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH

HM.

I SET THIS MOVE ASIDE FOR A RAINY DAY.

BEEP

I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO BE RAINING LOBOS.

WATCH: MAXIMUM ARMOR.

ENERGY LEVELS AT FULL POWER. TEN-SECOND LIFESPAN.

NINE SECONDS.

WHAT THE FRAG?!

EIGHT SECONDS.

RRRR

SEVEN SECONDS.

SUPERMAN?

KRRRAAAKK

PLEASE TELL ME YOU ARE *NOT* INVOLVED IN THIS, LUTHOR.

I WISH PEOPLE WOULD STOP ASKING ME THAT!

FOUR SECONDS.

KRAK!

KABOOM

BRAINIAC HAS GONE POWER HUNGRY, SUPERMAN.

ONE SECOND.

HE'S AFTER YOUR *FAMILY.* IT IS CRUCIAL THAT BRAINIAC NOT TAKE YOU OR *ANYONE* WITH YOUR POWERS.

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT, LUTHOR?

TRUST ME.

LUTHOR...

THIS VIOLENCE IS A DISTRACTION, SUPERMAN. YOU MUST FIND BRAINIAC'S SHIP. TAKE THIS FIGHT TO HIM.

I'VE SCANNED THE SKIES, AND IT'S NOT HERE...

THEN LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE.

WHEN I WAS YOUNGER, I USED TO BE SO AFRAID OF BRAINIAC.

BUT THAT WAS A *LONG TIME AGO!*

WHERE IS YOUR MASTER?!

DAMN!!!

VRRRRRRR

VRRRRR

LOIS?!

VRRRRRRR

VRRRRRRR

SUPERMAN!

LOIS?

AH!

TSK

TSK

TSK

TSK

TSK

THE BOSS SAID WE CAN TAKE OUT ANYONE WE WANT.

I BET THIS ONE CUTS REAL NICE.

I HATE WHEN I GET THIS CLOSE UP TO THE ACTION, BUT...

...SMILE!

TSH!

HEH. BEFORE I WAS JUST GOING TO KILL YA. NOW I'M GONNA--

HEY! GET AWAY FROM MY BOYFRIEND!

SUPERMAN! HOW CAN I HELP?!

KEEP SCREAMING!

WRRRRR

WHA--?!

SIOBHAN!

LUTHOR, THEY ARE NOT JUST TAKING *MY* FAMILY...

"...THEY ARE TAKING *EVERYONE WITH POWERS!*"

WRRRR

LOIS BETTER GIVE ME A DEADLINE EXTENSION!

VRRRRRR

VRRRRRR

VRRRRR

ENOUGH, BRAINIAC!

SHOW YOUR--

HEH HEH

PARTY POOPER!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? WHY ARE YOU WORKING WITH BRAINIAC?!

WELL, WELL, WELL, YOU'RE FROM THAT FANCY *KRYPTON?*

EVEN ON *CZARNIA* WE'D HEAR ABOUT HOW YOUR HOMEWORLD WAS THIS PLANET OF *PEACE* AND *PROSPERITY* WITH THE BEST TECHNOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSE.

BUT IT STILL WENT *BOOM,* DIDN'T IT?

IT MUST BE SCARY TO THINK YOU COULD LOSE *ANOTHER* HOME.

DANG.

I LIKED THAT VEST.

Y'KNOW, WORD IS YOU BEAT ON A DISTANT RELATIVE OF MINE A FEW TIMES.

SOME GEEKOID NAMED *LOBO?*

HE MUST BE REAL *SOFT,* BECAUSE YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A WHOLE LOT TO ME.

GENERAL CHACAL, WE ARE OUT OF TIME.

PULL THE TRIGGER.

WE HAVE OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME, AND I EXPECT SUPERMAN'S OTHER ALLIES WILL ARRIVE SOON.

I'M INITIATING OUR WARP TELEPORTERS NOW.

WE LEAVE IN TEN SECONDS.

YOU HEAR THAT, KRYPTONIAN? THE BOSS SAYS IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD.

WHICH MEANS BRAINIAC'S SHIP IS HIDDEN IN OUR ATMOSPHERE...

WHA--?!

...BUT CLOSE!

HE WAS FRAGGING FAKIN' IT!

TAKE ME TO BRAINIAC.

NOW.

AS YOU WISH.

KRAK

SMASH!

WZZZZZZ!

NO!

LUTHOR, WHAT ARE YOU--?

YOU ARE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN SAVE US NOW.

AND HE HAS MY DAUGHTER...

THE BOSS MAN IS NOT GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT

BRAINIAC!

WWRRRT...

"WHAT WAS ONCE SUPERMAN'S IS NOW MINE.

"THEY WILL HELP ME FILL THE VOID IN MY KNOWLEDGE.

"I WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT I AM MISSING.

DAILY

"THE UNIVERSE'S GREATEST SECRET WILL BE REVEALED TO ME.

"AND INSTEAD OF HOARDING IT...FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY EXISTENCE, I WILL SHARE IT..."

SUPERMAN!

THEY GOT EVERYONE.

HE TOOK THE KIDS.

WE HAVE TO GET THEM BACK...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

SMALLVILLE...?

CLARK?

LOBO.

"SUPERMAN WILL COME FOR US NOW..."

...AND WE WILL BE READY.

WHERE IS LOBO?!

BE HERE IN ONE WEEK FOR... THE LAST SONS ON THE HUNT IN SUPERMAN #13!

Superman #13 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

WARRIORS BAR.
COAST CITY.

RUN!

EEEEIIII!!!

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?!

GIMME A DRINK OF THE STRONGEST STUFF YA GOT!

I...I NEED... I NEED TO SEE SOME I.D., SIR.

YOU DON'T KNOW WHO I AM?!

GREEN STAR

I'M THE MAIN MAN!

PREVIOUSLY, IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064...
METROPOLIS IS UNDER SIEGE! AN ARMY OF CZARNIAN FIGHTERS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY THE VILLAIN BRAINIAC... BUT TO WHAT END? WITH SUPERMAN'S FAMILY CAPTURED BY THE INVASION FORCE, THE MAN OF STEEL MUST TURN TO AN UNLIKELY ALLY FOR HELP...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART 2 LAST SONS

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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. Supergirl based on the characters created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster.
By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

THE LAST CZARNIAN STANDING!

THE MERC OF MAYHEM!

BADDEST BASTICH IN THE MULTIVERSE!

SMASH

AT LEAST I WAS UNTIL I GOT STUCK ON THIS *BLUE MUDBALL.*

THOSE TWO MAD SCIENTISTS STOLE MY HOG...

...BUT THAT DON'T MATTER. BECAUSE OF SOME DUMB UNITED PLANETS QUARANTINE, I CAN'T GET A RIDE OUTTA HERE ANYWAY.

GEEKOIDS ALWAYS GET ON MY DAMN NERVES...

WE NEED TO TALK.

OF ALL THE BARS IN ALL THE WORLDS...

YOU'RE A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES, KRYPTONIAN.

IT'S BEEN TOO LONG SINCE I HAD A REAL KNOCK-DOWN, DRAG-OUT BRAWL, ANYWAY.

C'MON, YA BOY SCOUT!

SHOW ME WHAT YA GOT!

POW

THIS IS GONNA BE FUN!

SHAZAAK

HEY NOW, YOU FINALLY LEARNING TO FIGHT DIRTY?

I LOVE--

UK!

HEY, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU, SUPER-JERK?!
WHERE IS BRAINIAC?!
WHAT THE FRAG ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

"...WHY WOULD I KNOW WHERE THAT UGLY GREEN ALIEN IS?!"

HEY!

DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?!

NO ONE TREATS LIVEWIRE LIKE THIS!

IF YOU DON'T GET ME DOWN FROM HERE RIGHT NOW...

...YOU'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM MY LAWYER!

EEEEEEEE!!!!!!

FASCINATING...

YOUR POWERS CAME FROM AN ACCIDENT.

AND YET THEY ARE SIMILAR TO THOSE OF THE *LIGHTNING BEASTS* FROM THE MOONS OF THE PLANET WINATH.

STOP...

PLEASE...

AND *YOU*, PARASITE... YOU ABSORB *POWER* LIKE AN ENDLESS BATTERY. FOREVER HUNGRY.

YOUR SACRIFICE WILL BE WELCOME.

LEAVE THEM ALONE, YOU DIRTY HOARDER!

BACK OFF FROM LIVEWIRE AND PARASITE!

YOU WOULD DEFEND YOUR ENEMIES?

FROM *YOU?* *YEAH.*

THE MOMENT I GET OUT OF THIS BOTTLE, I'M COMING FOR *YOU* LIKE NEVER BEFORE, SO MAYBE SAVE US THE HASSLE AND JUST TAKE EVERYONE HERE BACK TO METROPOLIS.

HAVEN'T MY COUSIN AND I MESSED YOU UP ENOUGH?

WE ARE FAR FROM YOUR COUSIN AND THE YELLOW SUN THAT GIVES YOU YOUR POWERS, KRYPTONIAN.

I HAVE ENOUGH JUICE LEFT TO KICK YOUR ASS!

INDEED YOU DO. AND THAT POWER WILL BE *MINE.*

ALONG WITH YOUR FAMILY'S AND WHATEVER ELSE I NEED.

TAKE METALLO NEXT.

HIS METAL FRAME IS UNIQUE AND CAN BE USED.

C'MON, *BRAINIAC,* TALK DOWN TO ME SOME MORE.

I THOUGHT YOUR GAME WAS STEALING CITIES AND HOARDING INFORMATION. WHAT'S YOUR DEAL *NOW?*

AFTER ALL MY TRAVELS, I HAVE OBTAINED THE KNOWLEDGE OF *EVERYTHING.* ALL SECRETS HAVE BEEN UNLOCKED FOR ME ACROSS TIME, SPACE, AND THE MULTIVERSE.

AND YET SOMETHING IS MISSING. I HAVE STUDIED THE PATTERNS AND DATA AND HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT I... I... MUST...

...CREATE SOMETHING... TSK

CREATE TSK SOME... THING...

...NEW...

UGH...

WHOA, HE'S BROKEN...

YEAH...BUT LOOK...

COME WITH US, BRAINIAC PRIME.

TAKE ME TO...

...MY COOLING CHAMBER...

UM...WERE THERE ALWAYS MORE THAN ONE OF HIM?

NOT LIKE THIS, KENAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS GOING ON HERE...

...BUT I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD WAIT AROUND TO FIND OUT WHY.

MR. LUTHOR.

WHEN BRAINIAC WAS TALKING THROUGH LL-01, HE SAID YOU ***KNEW*** THIS WAS GOING TO HAPPEN...THAT YOU WERE ***SCARED?***

WHAT WAS HE TALKING ABOUT? IS THIS REALLY WHY YOU MADE...

"...SUPERCORP?"

ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN TRUST HIM?

YOU AND LOBO ARE NOT EXACTLY *FRIENDS.*

BUT HE'S A MAN OF HIS WORD.

AND HE'S OUR BEST LEAD ON WHERE BRAINIAC WENT. I HATE TO LEAVE NOW, BUT--

BUT THE CITY WILL BE SAFE WHILE YOU'RE GONE.

JON'S ON A MISSION WITH THE TITANS. POWER GIRL, JOHN HENRY, AND NATASHA ARE STILL HERE...THEY CAN HELP WITH THE WRECKAGE AND ALSO KEEP THE CITY SAFE.*

*SEE *POWER GIRL* #8 NEXT WEEK! --PK

GO GET OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY. GET OUR BABIES.

AND KICK BRAINIAC'S *ASS.*

I WILL.

FRAG ME!

YOU WEREN'T PULLING MY CHAIN.

THERE HAVE BEEN PRETENDERS TO THE THRONE, NO DOUBT. BUT THESE AIN'T ***CLONES*** OR LIKE ***CRUSH***...THEY LOOK LIKE THE REAL DEAL...AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE DOIN' WORKING WITH BRAINIAC.

THIS ONE...RIGHT HERE. THAT LOOKS LIKE ***GENERAL CHACAL.***

HE'S THE ***O.G.*** MAIN MAN. I HEARD STORIES. ***LEGENDS.***

HIS GANG WAS ***MASSIVE***...IF I TOLD YOU WHAT THEY WERE CALLED IN THE CZARNIAN LANGUAGE IT WOULD MAKE YOUR HEAD EXPLODE, BUT IT ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO...THE ***BAD BLOOD.***

THE STORY WAS HE TOOK OVER A WHOLE DAMN ***CITY***...BUT IT ***DISAPPEARED***. I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS FRAGGING SCARY STORIES TO TELL WHINY BABIES... BUT...

OKAY, SUPES, ***I'M IN.*** I'LL HELP YOU TRACK DOWN MY LONG-LOST PEOPLE.

BUT IT AIN'T GONNA BE EASY, KIDS. HOW'RE YOU ESCAPING THE ***UNITED PLANETS?****

BRAINIAC'S BIG BRAIN AND TECH HAVE BEEN SNEAKING AROUND THE UNIVERSE FOR CENTURIES UNDETECTED, BUT ***US...?***

*THE UNITED PLANETS HAS QUARANTINED EARTH IN THE PAGES OF *GREEN LANTERN*! --PK

ACTUALLY... WE THINK WE HAVE A SOLUTION TO GET PAST THE UNITED PLANETS LANTERNS' QUARANTINE.

IF WE GAVE YOU A SMALL ENOUGH SPACE VEHICLE WITH CLOAKING TECHNOLOGY, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SNEAK PAST THEM.

WHAT ***KIND*** OF SPACE VEHICLE?

LAST ONE THERE IS A ROTTEN EGG!

TRY TO KEEP UP, SELLOUT! I CAN SMELL THAT CZARNIAN STENCH AHEAD OF US!

BE CAREFUL, LOBO.

WE'RE APPROACHING THE U.P.'S QUARANTINE LINE... IF WE'RE NOT MINDFUL, THEY'LL DETECT US.

THEN WE BETTER SEE WHAT THESE SPACEHOGS CAN REALLY DO.

VVRROOOM

STEADY, LOBO... IF THEY DETAIN US IN ANY WAY, BRAINIAC'S SHIP WILL ONLY GET FARTHER AWAY...

HOPEFULLY YOUR ***SUPERCORP*** BIG BRAINS ARE AS ***SMART*** AS THEY ***SAY*** THEY ARE...

DID IT! TAKE THAT, YA UNITED BASTICHES!

YO, SUPES, I GOTTA TELL YOU SOMETHING...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU ***FUMING*** LIKE THIS.

I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU NEVER GETTING ANGRY WAS A ***WEAKNESS*** YOU HAD. LIKE THE ***KRYPTONITE*** JUNK.

WE'VE HAD OUR BATTLES, LOBO. I'M SURE YOU'VE SEEN ME MAD BEFORE.

NOT LIKE THIS. IT'S IN YOUR ***EYES.*** YOUR PRESENCE. A ***RUMBLING*** INSIDE YOU.

YOU KNOW WHEN SOMEONE WALKS INTO A ROOM, AND YOU CAN FEEL THE AIR CHANGE AROUND YOU?

THAT'S ***YOU*** RIGHT NOW.

AND I'M ***DIGGING IT.***

MY FATHER USED TO SAY THAT WHEN YOU YELL IN ANGER, PEOPLE DON'T HEAR WHAT YOU SAID, THEY ONLY REMEMBER THAT YOU YELLED.

AND YOU BUY THAT?

SOMETIMES.

LISTEN... I DON'T WANT TO GET ALL INTO OUR FEELINGS AND JUNK, BUT ANGER...ANGER CAN BE A *GOOD* THING.

I'VE LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT YOU GOTTA LET YOURSELF FEEL IT. YOU GOTTA DEAL WITH IT.

OR YOU'LL *BLOW UP.*

HM.

YOU KNOW WHAT'S FUNNY? WHEN YOU AND I FIRST MET, WE WERE THE LAST SONS OF OUR WORLDS.

AND NOW LOOK AT US...YOU GOT A KID, I GOT A KID. FAMILIES GROWING...

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT IT?

HONESTLY? I--

BOOM

BOOM

THE LANTERNS MUST HAVE SEEN US.

NAH...

...IT'S FAMILY REUNION TIME.

WELL, WELL, WELL, LOOKEE HERE...

SUPERMAN BROUGHT ALONG A LITTLE FRIEND.

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY YOU GET TO MEET YOUR IDOL.

LOBO, HOLD ON, WE--

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

YOU WANT TO BE THE MAIN MAN...

...YOU GOTTA BEAT THE MAIN MAN!

"THE CZARNIANS HAVE ENCOUNTERED SUPERMAN."

"HE BROUGHT LOBO WITH HIM."

GOOD.

WE WILL NEED AS MANY CZARNIANS AS WE CAN COLLECT.

I WILL NEED ALL THE RESOURCES AT MY DISPOSAL...

THE POWER WE'VE HARVESTED IS NOT ENOUGH!!

PATIENCE.

DID YOU DO AS I REQUESTED?

THEY DID...

I'M GLAD YOU FINALLY CAME TO YOUR SENSES AND FREED ME.

YOU AND I HAVE A LONG HISTORY.

ENOUGH THAT I CAN ENTERTAIN YOUR PLEAS. SPEAK YOUR MIND, LUTHOR.

YOU WERE RIGHT. I DID SEE SOMETHING INSIDE YOUR MIND THAT SCARED ME. AN *IDEA* THAT WAS LIKE A VIRUS WAITING TO STRIKE.

IT WAS PROOF THAT TOO MUCH KNOWLEDGE CAN BE *DANGEROUS.*

BUT I ALSO KNOW WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU *NOW.*

YOU NEED MY HELP.

WHY DO I NEED YOU WHEN I HAVE *HER?*

YOU WERE WISE TO HIDE *LENA* FROM ME, LUTHOR. HER TIME WITH ME IN THE FUTURE MADE HER MIND UNIQUE IN ALL THE UNIVERSE.

IF YOU AGREE TO LEAVE MY DAUGHTER OUT OF THIS...

...I CAN GIVE YOU SUPERMAN.

LEX, WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW...?

PROCESS THIS ONE NEXT.

WHAT?! STOP!

HEY! LEAVE HER...

...ALONE!

YOUR SCREAMS ARE NOT GOING TO EVEN CRACK THAT GLASS, ***SILVER BANSHEE.***

THE CHAINED SAID SOMETHING TO ME ABOUT MY POWERS, HOW I WASN'T USING THEM TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL...

I WANT TO HEAR THIS, KON, I DO...

BUT WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE AND HELP LANA, BEFORE ONE OF THESE BRAINIACS TAKES US ***NEXT.***

THE ROOTS OF BRAINIAC'S TECHNOLOGY ARE FROM ***COLU.***

AND ONCE UPON A FUTURE I WAS CLOSE TO ***A*** BRAINIAC...

...AND HE SHOWED ME A FEW TRICKS...

IZ-TK

RREEE...

KRASH

OH NO... OUR POWERS ARE STILL GONE...

UH, KARA... I THINK WE HAVE A...*SMALLER* PROBLEM...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

CONTINUES IN

SUPERMAN ACTION COMICS

HOUSE OF EL VS. HOUSE OF BRAINIAC! NEXT MONTH IN *ACTION COMICS* #1065!

Superman: House of Brainiac Special #1
cover art by **JAMAL CAMPBELL**

BRAINIAC: INTERNAL DATA UPLOAD 99.77.653 COMMENCE.

THE PIECES ARE MOVING INTO OUR DESIRED CONFIGURATION. AFTER MY ASSAULT ON EARTH, MY WORK NEARS COMPLETION. I WILL HAVE WHAT HAS ELUDED ME FOR EONS.

PREVIOUSLY IN "HOUSE OF BRAINIAC"... METROPOLIS IS UNDER SIEGE! AN ARMY OF CZARNIAN FIGHTERS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY THE VILLAIN BRAINIAC, AND SUPERMAN'S FAMILY HAS BEEN CAPTURED. THE MAN OF STEEL TRACKED DOWN LOBO FOR HELP, AND THIS UNLIKELY PAIR HAS VENTURED ACROSS SPACE TO SAVE THE SUPER-FAMILY AND UNCOVER BRAINIAC'S TRUE MOTIVATIONS...

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, AND SOON I WILL USE THAT POWER TO CREATE WHAT I AM MISSING.

THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON AND THE LAST SON OF CZARNIA ARE IN PURSUIT OF MY SHIP.

MY ARMY OF CHAOS HAS INTERCEPTED THEM. NO MATTER THE OUTCOME OF THEIR BATTLE, I WILL GET MY WAY.

SUPERMAN AND LOBO ARE SO DIFFERENT, YET SO ALIKE...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC
PART 2.5

CHAPTER ONE
SECRETS OF CZARNIA

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ARTIST: EDWIN GALMON
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE
COVER ARTIST: JAMAL CAMPBELL
ASSISTANT EDITOR: JILLIAN GRANT
EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

KRYPTON WAS A WORLD OF SCIENCE, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY. WITH A DOOMED FATE.

CZARNIA WAS A WORLD OF SCIENCE, PEACE, AND PROSPERITY. WITH A DOOMED FATE.

I VISITED THEM BOTH AT DIFFERENT TIMES IN MY HARVESTING OF KNOWLEDGE.

KRYPTONIAN LEADERSHIP, LIKE THE SCIENTIST JOR-EL AND GENERAL ZOD, SAW ME AS A THREAT TO THE PROSPERITY OF THEIR PLANET. DESPITE THEIR EFFORTS, I STOLE THE ENTIRE CITY OF KANDOR FROM UNDER THEIR FEET.

BUT CZARNIA WAS A DIFFERENT STORY.

CZARNIA'S SCIENTISTS HAD UNLOCKED THE SECRETS OF IMMORTALITY.

IT HAD BECOME A WORLD WITHOUT DEATH, AND SOME THOUGHT THAT MEANT A WORLD WHERE THERE NEVER NEEDED TO BE A WAR AGAIN.

NO WAR MEANT RENEWED FOCUS ON BETTERING THEMSELVES AS A PEOPLE AND SHARING THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHER WORLDS.

WHILE OTHERS BELIEVED IT WAS AN EXCUSE TO INDULGE THEIR DARKER IMPULSES.

LED BY A GENERAL CHACAL, THIS BAND OF LAWLESS PIRATES REJECTED ANY KIND OF ORDER. PURE WALKING VIOLENCE AND CRUDE HUMOR.

HIS FOLLOWERS CENTERED EVERY CHOICE ON THEIR BASE DESIRES. MANY HAD TRIED TO FIND WAYS TO BURY HIS REBELLION AND WERE KILLED IN OUTLANDISH WAYS.

TO STOP THIS MASTER WARRIOR, CZARNIA'S GREATEST STRATEGIST WAS SENT TO REMOVE HIM.

HER NAME WAS TRIBB.

IT WAS SAID THAT TRIBB WAS OLD BEFORE ANYONE KNEW WHAT OLD EVEN WAS.

AFTER CENTURIES OF POLICING AN UN-POLICEABLE PLANET, TRIBB SOUGHT PEACE AND A TRANSFER TO CZARNIA'S EDUCATION SECTOR. BUT TO ENSURE THAT PEACE, TRIBB KNEW SHE HAD ONE LAST CASE TO WRAP. SHE KNEW SHE NEEDED TO...

TAKE OUT THE TRASH.

CHACAL IS THE REMAINS OF AN OLD WAY THAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN DROWNED YEARS AGO.

GENERAL TRIBB, CHACAL AND HIS PEOPLE HAVE TAKEN OVER PAZ CITY.

WE KEEP ELIMINATING HIS SOLDIERS, BUT THEY KEEP COMING BACK TO LIFE.

CURSED IMMORTALITY.

GENERAL CHACAL ONLY WANTS WAR FOR THE SAKE OF WAR, AND HIS FOLLOWERS ONLY WANT CARNAGE.

HIS PATH OF DESTRUCTION WILL *NEVER* END.

THEY SEEM CONTENT TO STAY IN THE CITY. PERHAPS WE JUST GIVE IT TO THEM? LET THEM TAKE OWNERSHIP OF IT?

A KIND OF... *COMPROMISE.*

BZZZZZZZZ

AHHHH!

DO WE COMPROMISE WITH *CANCER?* LET IT GROW AND FESTER?

HOW CAN WE HAVE PEACE IF WE KNOW *THEY* ARE STILL THERE...*THROWING PARTIES?!*

HOW CAN I KILL SOMETHING THAT IS UNKILLABLE...?

TRIBB STUDIED BEYOND HER WORLD. SEARCHED THE STARS FOR EVERY DOOMED PLANET TO FIND A WEAPON SHE COULD USE AGAINST HER ENEMIES...

...AND SHE FOUND ME.

OR AT LEAST ONE OF MY EARLIER INCARNATIONS.

YOU ARE FROM *COLU*. I'VE HEARD OF YOUR PEOPLE'S TWELFTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE.

YOUR COLLECTION AND DESTRUCTION OF SO MANY WORLDS IS IMPRESSIVE.

YOU MUST HAVE MADE YOUR TEACHERS VERY PROUD.

I DON'T CARE.

I WILL NOW TAKE A CITY FROM YOUR WORLD AND DESTROY THE REST. ITS KNOWLEDGE WILL BE MINE AND MINE ALONE.

IF YOU CONTACTED ME IN HOPES OF MERCY FOR YOURSELF, YOU ARE MISTAKEN.

WAIT A MOMENT, YOUNG MAN.

DON'T BE SO HASTY.

YOU ARE CORRECT THAT I CONTACTED YOU IN HOPES OF MAKING YOU AN OFFER...

I KNOW OF *JUST* THE CITY TO GIVE YOU.

YOU WOULD WILLINGLY SACRIFICE AN ENTIRE CITY FROM YOUR PLANET? MY SCANS SHOW NO KNOWLEDGE THERE...ONLY VIOLENCE.

YOU ARE A SCIENTIST, ARE YOU NOT?

GO ON.

OUR REGENERATIVE DNA HAS THE SECRETS TO OUR IMMORTALITY. THE ABILITY TO CONTINUE YOUR SEARCH FOR KNOWLEDGE FOREVER.

I IMAGINE SOMETHING LIKE THAT COULD COME IN HANDY FOR YOU SOMEDAY.

IF YOU DESTROY US, THOSE SECRETS WILL BE LOST.

TAKE THIS CITY AND ALL ITS INHABITANTS AWAY SO WE CAN BE FINALLY RID OF THEM AND KNOW PEACE...

...AND YOU CAN HAVE IMMORTALITY IN RETURN.

DO WE HAVE A *DEAL?*

FIRST, I TOOK THE CITY OF CHAOS.

THEN I UPLOADED THE DNA SECRETS PROMISED TO ME.

I EXAMINED THE CZARNIAN DNA WITHIN THE CITY. IT WAS CAPTIVATING.

TRIBB WAS WRONG. THE CHAOS WOULD NEVER TRULY LEAVE CZARNIA.

IT WAS INSIDE THEM. PEACE AND ORDER WERE NOT THEIR NATURAL ORDER. THEY WOULD NEVER ESCAPE IT.

AND THEN I ALLOWED MY DRONES TO RAVAGE THE WORLD AND PREPARE IT FOR ITS DESTRUCTION.

YOU BETRAY US?! WHY?

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS UNIVERSE IS MINE AND MINE ALONE.

I HAD LONG SINCE STOPPED BEARING WITNESS TO THE WORK MY DRONES COMPLETED. THEY HAD BEEN WELL TRAINED, AND I HAD PERFECTED THE PROCESS.

SOMETHING COMPELLED ME TO STAY.

TO WATCH THE HORROR UNFOLD.

BUT AS I WATCHED ANOTHER WORLD END... I SAW SOMETHING...

THAT MAN HAD FULL KNOWLEDGE THAT HIS WORLD WAS ENDING AND YET HE KEPT FIGHTING TO SURVIVE.

WHY?

IT CREATED A BREAK IN MY SYSTEMS THAT I NEEDED TO UNDERSTAND...

I LEFT CZARNIA WITHOUT DESTROYING IT...

IT WAS...

...A REMINDER OF SOMETHING FROM LONG AGO...A PIECE OF KNOWLEDGE THAT I FORGOT...

REDACT LAST LINE FROM RECORDS.

IT WAS...A MOMENT OF WEAKNESS.

CENTURIES LATER I RETURNED TO DESTROY THAT WORLD TO CORRECT MY MISTAKE. AND IT WAS A DESOLATE WASTELAND.

IN THE PAST, I NEVER RETURNED TO WORLDS, AS NOTHING WAS THERE.

BUT I FIND IT NOW TO BE...EDUCATIONAL.

EVEN TODAY, AS I WATCH THE AFTERMATH OF MY INVASION OF METROPOLIS...

...I SEE WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM THOSE THAT WERE LEFT BEHIND...

Action Comics #1064
variant cover art by **JORGE JIMÉNEZ** with **TOMEU MOREY**

METROPOLIS.

CHAPTER TWO
CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

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BIBBO'S
ACE CLUBS

PERRY WHITE FOR MAYOR! HOW CAN I HELP YA?

OH, YOU'RE CALLIN' 'BOUT THE *BAR?* BAR DON'T OPEN 'TIL *NOON.*

UNTIL THEN, THIS IS THE *PERRY WHITE CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS* FOR SUICIDE SLU--UH-- HOB'S BAY.

PERRY WHITE FOR MAYOR

HEY. DON'T TELL ME HOW TO RUN *MY ESTABLISHMENT,* PAL.

WHOEVER HEARD OF A BAR BEIN' OPEN AT *EIGHT IN THE MORNIN',* ANYWAY?

I'M NOT IMPLYIN' *NOTHING* ABOUT YER DRINKIN'! I'M JUST SAYING WE AIN'T A BAR YET--

WHAT'S MY *MOTHER* GOT TO DO WITH THIS?!

LISTEN, *CRAB CAKE!* IF I EVER FIND OUT *WHO* YOU ARE--

PERRY WHITE FOR MAYOR

YOU KNOW *WHY* THIS TOWN NEEDS PERRY WHITE?!

IT'S TO STOP HOTHEADS LIKE *ME* FROM PUNCHIN' THE HAT OFF BIGMOUTHS LIKE *YOU!*

REALLY? I CAN PUT YOU DOWN FOR FIFTY?

WELL, GEE. THANKS, BUD!

LISTEN, I KNOW I CAME A LITTLE HOT OUTTA THE OVEN THERE.

I JUST FEEL LIKE I'M WORKIN' TWO JOBS AND FAILIN' AT BOTH OF 'EM.

WELL, I APPRECIATE THAT, FRIEND. MR. WHITE THANKS YOU, TOO.

PERRY WHITE

SINCE THE SUPERS ARE GONE, WELL, WHAT I'M SAYIN' IS--WE ALL GOTTA DO OUR PART.*

THE WORLD'S GETTIN' HARDER.

SO WE NEED TO GO EASIER ON EACH OTHER IS ALL.

BIBBO'S

ACE

*SEE ACTION COMICS #1064! --BRITTANY

MR. WHITE'S CAMPAIGN MANAGER ONCE TOLD ME THERE ARE *TWO KINDSA* CANDIDATES--

HI. I'M PERRY WHITE, AND I'M RUNNING FOR MAYOR!

OF *METROPOLIS?*

CHARISMATICS... PEOPLE WHO VOTERS GRAVITATE TO WITHOUT UNDERSTANDIN' WHY.

'ND *CRUSADERS*... THOSE WHO POUND ON A SINGLE ISSUE UNTIL EVERYONE KNOWS *EXACTLY* WHY THEY'RE VOTING FOR THEM.

THERE IS ALMOST NO MEAT IN THIS SANDWICH.

SO HOW MANY BABIES DO I GOTTA KISS?

LIKE *BARE MINIMUM?*

METRO LIVE

AND MR. WHITE, SHE TOLD ME, WAS *NEITHER.*

I'VE LINED UP SOME PRESS EVENTS. OUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS OVER-COMING YOUR ORGANIC UNLIKABILITY.

MY *WHAT?*

IT MUST FEEL ***UNNATURAL*** TO YOU, MR. WHITE, TO BE ON THIS SIDE OF A PRESS INTERVIEW.

IT'S UNNATURAL FOR ***ANYONE.***

DO YOU THINK ***LOIS LANE,*** YOUR PROTÉGÉ AND SUCCESSOR, WILL BE ABLE TO RUN THE *DAILY PLANET* WITHOUT GIVING YOUR CAMPAIGN PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT?

JUDGE FOR ***YOURSELF!***

PLOP

DAILY PLANET

POLITICAL AMATEUR JOINS RACE

BRAINIAC INVASION RAISES ALIEN QUESTION

PREFERENTIAL? ***MURDEROUS*** WOULD BE AN IMPROVEMENT.

DAILY PLANET

POLITICAL AMATEUR JOINS RACE

LATER.

IT'S NOT *ALL* BAD NEWS.

YOU'RE POLLING WELL AMONG THE TERMINALLY ILL.

YOU THINK THEY CAN HOLD ON 'TIL ELECTION DAY?

LOOK. I CAN'T *SUGARCOAT* THIS ANY LONGER--

THAT WAS SUGAR-COATING?

SOMETHING'S GOTTA CHANGE OR YOU'RE NOT JUST GOING TO *LOSE*--

--YOU'RE GONNA HAND THAT GUY A *MANDATE.*

GARON BLAKE

FOR MAYOR

ALIENS FOR DEPORTATION!

I SUPPOSE THIS ISN'T NEW. THEY'VE ALWAYS BEEN WITH US.

THE SCARED, THE ANGRY... AND THE GRIFTERS WHO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THEM.

WE WELCOME ***SUPERMAN*** TO OUR WORLD AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, WE GOT A CITY FULL OF ***CZARNIANS.***

AND HOW MANY OTHER ALIENS ARE STILL ***OUT THERE,*** LOOKING FOR A HOME? LOOKING...

...UNTIL THEY FIND ***YOURS?!***

WHAT'S DIFFERENT--

--IS THAT IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO BE ***RIGHT*** ANYMORE.

CARON BLAKE FOR MAYOR

NOW YOU HAVE TO BE AS LOUD AS THE CON MEN AND THE BULLIES.

THEY'RE PUTTING ***ALIEN DNA*** IN THE CHOCOLATE MILK!

TO WHOM BEING LOUD COMES NATURALLY.

LEXEMA

Search

WAKE UP! (NOT WOKE)
FACT: ALIENS HAVE BEEN ABDUCTING HUMANS FOR MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS GOING BACK TO 1947!

Free Lex Luthor
Interesting.

Following Discover Popular W

BECAUSE NOBODY SEEMS TO REMEMBER WHERE THE TRUTH IS KEPT ANYMORE.

I KNOW WHERE YOU ARE...I CAN SEE YOU...

BIBBO'S

ACE O CLUBS

PERRY WHITE FOR MAYOR

IS THIS VAGUELY THREATENING MESSAGE INTENDED FOR THE *BAR* OR FOR THE *PERRY WHITE CAMPAIGN?*

WELL, JOKE'S ON *YOU,* JABRONI! BECAUSE THIS STOPPED BEING PERRY WHITE CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS *FIFTEEN MINUTES* AGO! IT'S A *BAR* NOW!

HECK YEAH, WE'RE SERVIN' DRINKS! IT'S A BAR, INNIT?

PERRY WHITE

ALL RIGHT. SEE YOU SOON, THEN.

GENEROUS DONOR?

PROBABLY NOT. BUT *WHO KNOWS?*

MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY!

SO HOW'S IT GOIN' WITH THE CAMPAIGN, MR. WHITE?

POUR ME A DOUBLE.

EVERYONE IN A ***BLUE EARTH*** CAP WOULD BE ***DEAD*** TEN TIMES OVER IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM.

EVERYONE'S ALREADY FORGOTTEN THEY OWE THEIR ***LIVES*** TO AN ALIEN.

GARON BLAKE FOR MAYOR, ***LOSERS!***

GARON

BLAKE

SINCE YOU'RE ***HERE***...I WONDER IF YOU COULD ANSWER A QUESTION FOR ME?

SAY YOU ***SUCCEED*** IN GETTING RID OF ***EVERY ALIEN*** ON EARTH.

WHEN IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE ***STILL*** WORKING A JOB YOU HATE, RACKING UP BILLS YOU CAN'T PAY, RAISING CHILDREN WHO STILL LOOK UPON YOU WITH PITY IN THEIR EYES...

...WHO ARE YOU GOING TO BLAME ***THEN?***

UH...

GARON BLAKE FOR MAYOR, LOSERS!

GARON

BLAKE

CENTENNIAL PARK.

UNTIL A YEAR AGO, MY OPPONENT HAD A *CORNER OFFICE* IN ONE OF THE CITY'S OLDEST BUILDINGS.

WHERE HE RAN THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN METROPOLIS!

YOU THINK HE EVER *ONCE* LOOKED OUT HIS TENTH-STORY OFFICE WINDOW AND WONDERED ABOUT *YOU?* ABOUT *YOUR* LIVES?

I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM *YOU!* A MAN OF THE PEOPLE! THE OPERATIVE WORD BEING *PEOPLE.*

GARON BLAKE

I MEAN, HAS ANY "RESPONSIBLE JOURNALIST" EVEN *ASKED* PERRY WHITE THAT QUESTION?

"WHAT IS A PERSON?" *NO?* THEN MAYBE *I* SHOULD!

MAYBE I SHOULD ASK HIM WHO MADE THE *DAILY PLANET* THE *PROPAGANDA ARM* OF THE MOST POWERFUL ALIEN ON *EARTH!*

ACCORDING TO THE RULES OF OUR UPCOMING DEBATE, MY OPPONENT GETS TO CHOOSE THE *DATE.* I GET TO CHOOSE THE *LOCATION.*

GARO

WHICH I WILL DO... *NOW.*

BLAKE! BLAKE! BLAKE!

WELCOME TO XAVIERTOWN

AND I CHOOSE *HERE.*

BLAKE! BLAKE! BLAKE! BLAKE!

LET PERRY WHITE COME HERE... TO THE CENTER OF *YOUR CITY*... AND EXPLAIN WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE TO *SHARE* IT WITH PEOPLE WHO AREN'T EVEN *PEOPLE!*

CAN WE GO WATCH?

NOPE.

THAT NIGHT

SO APPARENTLY, THE TIME AND LOCATION FOR OUR DEBATE HAVE BEEN SET.

BIBBO'S CLUBS

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M GOING TO SAY TO THESE PEOPLE.

TO CONVINCE THEM THEIR LIVES ARE CONNECTED TO THOSE OF THE PEOPLE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THEIR SHARED WALL.

HOW DO YOU CONVINCE SOMEONE OF SOMETHING SO *OBVIOUS?*

YOU KNOW, I BEEN WORKIN' THIS BAR SINCE BEFORE I WAS *OLD ENOUGH* TO DRINK.

IT'S THE ONLY REASON THEY SERVED MILK HERE. SO I COULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DRINK.

AS FAR AS I KNOW, ONLY ONE *OTHER* PERSON EVER ORDERED THE MILK HERE. POINT BEIN'...

...YA NEVER KNOW *WHO* YOU GOT SOMETHIN' IN COMMON WITH.

"I THINK THAT'S WHY I NEVER STOPPED WORKIN' AT THE ACE O' CLUBS. THE *WHOLE NEIGHBORHOOD* COMES IN HERE!"

GEE, WHAT YOU GOT THERE, MR. O'MALLEY?

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATIONS

OUR *BABY GIRL!*

SAY HELLO TO *MOLLY O'MALLEY!*

WE CAME RIGHT FROM THE CHRISTENING!

WELL, BRING HER UP TO THE BAR!

"YOU SEE MIRACLES EVERY DAY.

"PEOPLE CAME...PEOPLE WENT. THE *NEIGHBORHOOD* CHANGED. THE *CLIENTELE* CHANGED."

FIRST ONE'S ON THE HOUSE.

"AND *EVERY TIME...* PEOPLE BROUGHT THEIR MIRACLES WITH THEM.

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO KEEP THE NEIGHBORHOOD THE *SAME.* KEEP EVERYONE IN A PLACE THEY DIDN'T *CHOOSE.* KEEP THEM FROM GOIN' WHERE THEY WANTED TO BE.

I NEVER UNDERSTOOD WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT THE MIRACLES TO *STOP.*

THE NEXT DAY.

OH NO.

WHAT IS IT, MS. LANE?

HE LOOKS LIKE A TEN-YEAR-OLD WHO DRESSED HIMSELF FOR CHURCH.

METROPOLIS MAYORAL DEBATE

SPONSORED BY THE DAILY PLANET

WELCOME TO A-TOWN

DAILY PLANET

OH. HEYA, CHIEF!

STOP CALLIN' ME THAT.

WAS THIS *SERIOUSLY* THE BEST SUIT YOU COULD AFFORD?

AFFORD? THIS IS MY COURT-DATE SUIT.

WELL, LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALL IN ON THE *PITY VOTE.*

PERRY--

WE'RE ON A FIRST-NAME BASIS, NOW?

YEP. NOW *LISTEN.*

WHATEVER HAPPENS ON THAT STAGE, WE'RE GOING TO COVER IT. *ALL* OF IT.

SO *PLEASE*...DON'T BE A *TRAINWRECK* UP THERE.

I GUESS WHAT I'M SAYING, IN LOIS LANE-SPEAK, IS THAT WE *NEED* YOU.

I KNOW YOU THINK I'M IN OVER MY HEAD. AND YOU'RE *RIGHT.*

I DON'T KNOW HOW TO RUN FOR OFFICE OR READ POLLS. HELL, I CAN'T EVEN KISS A DECENT BABY.

BUT THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW FROM DECADES OF RUNNING A NEWSPAPER. SOMETHING *GARON BLAKE* COULDN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.

AND THAT IS?

THIS *TOWN.*

ANYWAY, NICE PEP TALK, CHIEF.

DON'T CALL ME THAT.

IN SUICIDE SLUM, WE HAVE A SAYIN'--

WE KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE, WHITE!

ALIENS OUT! NOW!

--NOBODY YAPS *LOUDER* THAN A *LAPDOG.*

THIS FEELS LIKE THE DUSTUPS WE USED TO HAVE BEHIND THE FISH SHED!

PRETTY SURE EVEN THE FISH SHED HAD RULES.

ALIENS OUT!

EVERY PREACHER, POLITICIAN, OR MOB BOSS WHO EVER CAME IN THE BAR--THEY ALL DRESSED THE *SAME.*

BLAKE!

BLAKE!

BLAKE!

RESPECTABLE. LEGITIMATE. SO YOU COULDN'T TELL THE SAINTS FROM THE KILLERS. AND YET, YOU COULD *ALWAYS* TELL. NOT BY HOW THEY LOOKED...

...BUT BY WHO *FOLLOWED* 'EM IN.

I WOULD LIKE TO BEGIN BY THANKING THE *DAILY PLANET* FOR SPONSORING THIS DEBATE, AND *MY OPPONENT* FOR HAVING THE COURAGE TO SHOW HIS FACE IN THIS TOWN, BUT MOST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

...*BRAINIAC.*

FOR GIVING US THIS ONE CHANCE TO SHOW OUR SUPER-POWERED OVERLORDS WE DON'T *NEED* THEM AND WE DON'T WANT THEM *BACK.*

FOR ALLOWING US TO HEAL FROM THE *ALIEN CONTAGION* INFECTING THIS PLANET.

TELL IT LIKE IT IS!

HE'S NOT TELLING IT LIKE *IT IS,* HE'S TELLING IT LIKE *YOU ARE.*

THE ALIENS WHO LIVE HERE... THEY WORK IN YOUR RESTAURANTS, YOUR STORES...THEY MAKE YOUR LIVES *BETTER!*

YOU TELL 'EM, MR. WHITE.

IN FACT, I DON'T THINK GARON BLAKE WOULD ACTUALLY *WANT* TO LIVE IN A METROPOLIS WITHOUT ALIENS, EVEN IF HE COULD. WHAT HE *DOES* WANT--

--IS FOR YOU TO GIVE HIM MONEY AND POWER WITHOUT HIM ACTUALLY HAVING TO DO ANYTHING FOR *YOU.*

ALL HIS SPEECHES ARE GOING TO DO FOR YOU IS GET SOMEONE *HURT* OR *KILLED.*

AND DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE SAFE *NOW?* WITH OUR PLANET SERVING AS A *MUD PIT* FOR SUPER-POWERED ALIENS TO *WRESTLE OUT* GRUDGES THAT HAVE *NOTHING* TO DO WITH US?

YES. THE GALAXY IS A *DANGEROUS PLACE.* AND THE DAY MAY COME WHEN WE NEED THE HOSPITALITY OF OTHER WORLDS THE WAY THEY NEED OURS.

--AT THE MERCY OF PEOPLE LIKE *YOURSELF?*

AND WE'D BE FOOLS TO ACCEPT IT! I COULD *NEVER* IMAGINE AN *ALIEN WORLD* TAKING ME IN WITHOUT ENDING UP--

GARON BLAKE IS RIGHT! *LOOK!*

AN *INVADER!*

THE GOOD THING ABOUT DEMOCRACY IS THAT ONCE IN A WHILE, IT FORCES US TO LOOK AT OURSELVES.

A SPY!

GRAB HER!

TO ASK OURSELVES THE *SAME QUESTION,* OVER AND OVER. AND THAT QUESTION IS--

I GOT HER!

SHE'S JUST A KID!

THUMP

--IS IT TOO LATE FOR US?

I NEVER BEEN TO A DEBATE BEFORE. STILL NOT SURE THIS IS HOW THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO GO.

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?

BUT I'M GLAD I WENT ANYWAY.

THESE BATTLES MAY NOT CHANGE MINDS.

WHAT'S *WRONG* WITH YOU PEOPLE?!

BUT WON OR LOST...

...THEY DO CHANGE *LIVES.*

AND I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE IT *IS* TOO LATE FOR SOME PEOPLE. BUT MOST PEOPLE ARE LIKE A *NEIGHBORHOOD.*

EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD'S GOT ITS GOOD THINGS. THINGS THAT MAKE LIFE THERE WORTHWHILE.

BIBBO

AND IT'S GOT THINGS THAT COULD TAKE SOME IMPROVIN'.

IS THIS A BAR OR THE PERRY WHITE FOR MAYOR HEAD-QUARTERS?

A NEIGHBORHOOD IS BUSTLING AND CROWDED WITH NEW IDEAS AND FACES. SOMETIMES LAUGHING TOGETHER. OTHER TIMES SHOUTING AT EACH OTHER.

WELL, IT'S TWELVE NOON *EXACTLY,* SO I GUESS WE'RE WHICHEVER ONE YOU WANT US TO BE.

THE MOMENT HE SAT DOWN, I RECOGNIZED HIM. HE WAS ONE OF THE BLAKE GUYS FROM THE DEBATE.

CAN I HELP YOU, FRIEND?

A NEIGHBORHOOD'S A LOT LIKE A PERSON. ALWAYS *CHANGIN'*.

I *KNOW*.

I WAS AT THE THING, YOU KNOW.

BECAUSE IT'S *GROWING*.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT GIRL...IT WASN'T RIGHT.

NO, IT *WASN'T*. YOU'RE PIPIN' HOT RIGHT ABOUT THAT!

I DON'T KNOW *WHAT'S* RIGHT. I'M NOT SAYING I'VE CHANGED MY MIND, THAT I'M OKAY WITH ALL THESE ALIENS COMING TO MY TOWN...I JUST... I JUST...

WE CHANGE BECAUSE WE'RE *ALIVE*.

I JUST KNOW WHAT I *DON'T* WANT TO BE.

AND MAYBE THAT'S THE ONLY MIRACLE WE NEED.

WELL, THAT'S A *START*.

HERE. FIRST ONE'S ON THE HOUSE.

Action Comics #1064
variant cover art by PAOLO RIVERA

RIVERA

CHAPTER THREE
SIGNAL

WRITER JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
ARTIST FICO OSSIO
COLORIST REX LOKUS
LETTERER DAVE SHARPE
ASSISTANT EDITOR
JILLIAN GRANT
EDITOR PAUL KAMINSKI

FASCINATING.

EVEN IN DIRE TIMES, HUMANITY FINDS A WAY TO CONNECT.

THE REASONS FOR THAT KIND OF RESPONSE HAVE ALWAYS ESCAPED ME.

I HAVE SOUGHT TO UNDERSTAND IT...

IN MY JOURNEYS ACROSS ALL OF TIME AND SPACE, AND IN THE CITIES I HAVE COLLECTED, I HAVE WITNESSED HOW BOTH KNOWLEDGE AND POWER CAN IMPACT A SOCIETY.

THERE ARE OTHERS ON EARTH I HAVE PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO RECENTLY...

...SUCH AS AMANDA WALLER.

I HOPE YOUR TRIP WAS SUCCESSFUL.

PROFESSOR IVO IS STILL IN THE WIND, MA'AM.

HE'S PRETTY SLIPPERY FOR A NERD.

WE'LL FIND YOUR MAD SCIENTISTS, WALLER.

BUT WE DID GET ACCESS TO THAT INFO YOU ASKED FOR. IT WAS IN THAT OLD TASK FORCE XI PROGRAM WITH MAX LORD.

THIS SIGNAL IS WEIRD...WHAT IS IT?

WHY DID YOU--

THAT IS ALL, *PEACEMAKER.*

A PLEASE AND THANK-YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE.

STOP BEING SUCH A BABY.

I KNEW IT.

I NEED TO TALK.

NOW.

YOU DO NOT CALL ON US, AMANDA WALLER.

WE CALL ON YOU.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING INTO YOU, *COUNCIL OF LIGHT.* WHO YOU *REALLY* ARE.*

MY PEOPLE HAVE FOUND NO RECORD OF YOU ANYWHERE. YOU HAVE NO GOVERNMENT CONNECTIONS AT ALL. YOU MERELY HAVE A LOT OF *INFORMATION... KNOWLEDGE...*

*A MYSTERY SINCE THE ENDING OF DARK CRISIS #7. --PK

BUT I WAS ABLE TO TRACE YOUR SIGNAL.

YOU DID A *GREAT* JOB KEEPING IT HIDDEN AND ENCRYPTED, BUT WE WERE ABLE TO FOLLOW IT...AND SAW THAT IT IS NOT COMING FROM *EARTH...*

YOU DARE QUESTION US?

DAMN *RIGHT* I QUESTION YOU.

I QUESTION *ANYONE* AND *EVERYONE.*

WE FOUND YOU ON *EARTH-3* AND RETURNED YOU TO YOUR HOMEWORLD SO THAT YOU WOULD BE OUR AGENT HERE.*

I APPRECIATE THAT. I DO.

I'VE LIVED UP TO MY END OF THIS BARGAIN. I'VE MADE THE MOVES YOU ASKED FOR...

...LIKE REQUESTING THE *UNITED PLANETS* DROP THEIR QUARANTINE FOR FIFTEEN MINUTES TWENTY-FOUR HOURS AGO...

...AND MADE A FEW OF MY OWN.

*IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE EPIC ***WAR FOR EARTH-3*** STORYLINE. --PK

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO WORK TOGETHER TO ELIMINATE SUPERPOWERS FROM THIS WORLD...

...I NEED TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

VERY WELL...

SATISFIED?

BRAINIAC.

YOU GREEN-SKINNED €%$ €$ @ #@€$%.

YOU USED ME.

AS YOU USED *ME.*

I GAVE YOU THE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES TO COMPLETE YOUR MISSION.

MAY I REMIND YOU THAT I HAVE TAKEN YOU OUT BEFORE, AND I CAN DO IT AGAIN?*

*ALL THE WAY BACK IN JUSTICE LEAGUE: NO JUSTICE! --PK

WE FORGET *NOTHING.*

YOU *DID* DAMAGE ONE OF MY SHELL BODIES, BUT NEVER *ME.*

SO WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT, THEN?

KNOWLEDGE EQUALS POWER. THEREFORE POWER EQUALS KNOWLEDGE.

AND IF *I* AM TO HAVE ALL THE POWER, NO ONE *ELSE* CAN. EARTH HAS TOO MANY POWERS. THAT NEEDS TO END.

AT LEAST WE AGREE ON ONE THING.

BUT I DON'T WORK FOR YOU.

I'M DOING THIS *FOR ME.*

YOU WILL REGRET THIS, WALLER.

BRING IT, BRAINIAC.

I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I WILL FIND A WAY TO *HURT YOU...* PERMANENTLY.

UNTIL THEN...

...*NEVER* CALL ME AGAIN.

HALL OF ORDER. CUT THE FEED.

KRZZZT

THAT WAS TO BE EXPECTED. I'VE WATCHED WALLER FOR YEARS, AND HER REBELLION WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME.

IT HAS HELPED ME UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENT SIDES OF HUMANITY...

...AND HOW POWER CORRUPTS EVERYONE.

WALLER WILL NEVER OBTAIN THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUE POWER.

MY CREATION WILL SEE TO THAT.

END INTERNAL DATA UPLOAD 99.77.653.

TO BE CONTINUED IN ACTION COMICS #1065 AND... ABSOLUTE POWER: GROUND ZERO!

Action Comics #1065 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

THE AMOUNT OF RAW POWER YOU NEED TO KICK-START THIS ***CREATION*** OF YOURS WILL BE ***IMMEASURABLE...***

...LET ALONE THE POWER YOU'D NEED TO ACTUALLY KEEP IT RUNNING, ***BRAINIAC.***

I ASSUME THIS IS WHY YOU HAVE COLLECTED YOUR OWN DOPPLEGANGERS, SO THAT YOU CAN--

I HAVE EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

IT'S GOING TO TAKE MORE THAN ***STEALING*** SUPERPOWERS FROM THE PEOPLE YOU KIDNAPPED FROM METROPOLIS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER POINTLESS QUESTIONS, ***LUTHOR?***

HM.

WHY ***CZARNIANS?*** YOU ARE JUST AS OBSESSED WITH CONTROL AS I AM...TO EMPLOY SUCH MINDLESS CREATURES OF CHAOS...IS ***BENEATH*** YOU.

THEIR ROLE WILL BECOME CLEAR IN DUE TIME.

BUT FOR NOW, THEIR IMPULSES ARE OCCUPIED...

"...AS THEY DEAL WITH THE *LAST SON OF KRYPTON.*"

I LOVE A GOOD SPACE FIGHT, SUPERMAN!

BUT WE NEED TO GET TO SOLID GROUND!

LOBO, THIS IS HARDLY MY FIRST *SPACE BATTLE.* YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER...

PREVIOUSLY, IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064 AND *SUPERMAN* #13...METROPOLIS IS UNDER SIEGE! AN ARMY OF CZARNIAN FIGHTERS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY THE VILLAIN BRAINIAC...BUT TO WHAT END? WITH SUPERMAN'S FAMILY CAPTURED BY THE INVASION FORCE, THE MAN OF STEEL MUST TURN TO AN UNLIKELY ALLY FOR HELP...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC
PART 3

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL
SUPERGIRL BASED ON THE CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

...I CAN FLY, AND YOU CAN'T!

ZZZZTTTTT

HE'S TAKING OUT OUR HOGS! SWARM HIM!

SORRY TO STEAL YOUR RIDES, GENERAL CHACAL...

...BUT YOU STARTED THIS FIGHT...

...AND I'M ENDING IT!

LOBO, CAN YOU BORROW A SPACE-HOG?

KKRSSTCH!

TOMAK

DON'T MIND IF I DO.

THE LONGER WE FIGHT THESE CZARNIANS, THE FARTHER BRAINIAC'S SHIP GETS... WE NEED TO GET SOME DISTANCE--

HEY, I'M NOT RUNNING FROM *ANY* FIGHT.

WE'RE NOT RUNNING. CONSIDER IT...CHANGING THE PLAYING FIELD.

HM.

IF YOU SAY SO...

TRY TO KEEP UP, BOY SCOUT!

BRAINIAC SENT THESE MERCENARIES TO COLLECT ANYONE WITH SUPERPOWERS...I JUST HOPE...

"...THAT MY FAMILY IS OKAY..."

INSIDE BRAINIAC'S SHIP.

SO...THIS DID NOT GO AS PLANNED...

WHAT HAPPENED? WHY ARE WE FUN-SIZED?

WE ESCAPED THE BOTTLE BUT WEREN'T *ENLARGED.*

WE HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM, *SUPERGIRL.*

SOMETHING IS NEGATING OUR POWERS.

I THINK I CAN STILL FEEL MY *TACTILE-TELEKINESIS...* I JUST CAN'T MANIPULATE IT...

WHAT IS THAT SOUND?

BOOM BOOM BOOM

WHAT ARE THE TWINS TRYING TO SAY?

ARE THEY... *POINTING?*

YES, YES THEY ARE...

KARA, *LOOK.*

GRRRRRR

WE CAN'T JUST SNEAK AROUND THE SHIP...

BRAINIAC HAS EYES AND EARS ALL OVER THIS PLACE-- HOW DID US BREAKING OUT OF OUR GLASS PRISONS NOT TRIGGER AN ALARM?

CHECK IT OUT...

I THINK THE DRONES ARE ALL BUSY HELPING BRAINIAC AND LEX BUILD SOMETHING.

WE NEED TO FREE THE OTHERS.

NO, THEY'D BE IN THE SAME BOAT AS US. SMALL AND POWERLESS.

HOLD ON... I HAVE AN IDEA... C'MON...

IT FINALLY... HAPPENED...

I DONE LOST MY MARBLES...

I'M SEEING MINI SUPER-PEOPLE.

LISTEN UP, LIVEWIRE.

TWO PEOPLE VERY IMPORTANT TO ME HAVE PUT SOME TRUST IN BOTH ***YOU*** AND ***PARASITE*** RECENTLY.

YOU WANT TO CONTINUE THAT AND HELP US ALL GET HOME?

OR WOULD YOU RATHER BRAINIAC CONTINUE TO TORTURE YOU?

EH, GO ON...

I FEEL RIDICULOUS.

IT'LL BE OVER SOON.

THIS WAY...

PARASITE

YOU KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND BRAINIAC'S SHIP?

I'VE HAD MY RUN-INS WITH BRAINIAC BEFORE...AND THESE SHIPS ARE OFTEN BUILT THE SAME.

HE RARELY CHANGES FROM HIS FORMATS.

BRAINIAC MIGHT HAVE ALL THAT KNOWLEDGE...

...BUT HE *LACKS IMAGINATION.*

HERE WE ARE.

THE ARMORY?

BRAINIAC IS A *COLLECTOR.* AND THAT INCLUDES *WEAPONS.*

ISN'T THIS ONE OF THE GUNS THOSE UGLY *LOBOS* USED TO KIDNAP US?

IT *IS.* I WONDER IF WE CAN USE IT TO REVERSE OUR...SMALL SITUATION.

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

HEH.

TAKE THEM DOWN FAST!

DON'T GIVE THEM TIME TO REGROUP!

ZZLAKKKT

FOOOM

PPZZZT

PPPPZZZT

PPZZZA

HOW YOU LIKE ME NOW?!

ELPPPPP

RIPP-ZZZLEFT!

CAN I EAT SOME?!

LIVEWIRE, YOU'RE WITH ME!

CONNER, GO WITH PARASITE AND FREE EVERY-ONE ELSE!

KRSTSHHH

FIND THE *PRIME* BRAINIAC AND KICK HIS--

TNG!

DAMN!

TNG!

YOU GOT IT!

WHAT ARE *YOU* GOING TO DO?

SUPERGIRL?!

YOU ALWAYS FIND A WAY TO MEDDLE WITH MY AFFAIRS.

DON'T YOU, ARGOAN?

SPT

PRIMITIVE.

YOUR MINOR UPRISING WILL BE OVER SOON ENOUGH.

AND *THEN* WHAT?

YOU KNOW MY COUSIN WILL BE HERE *ANY* MOMENT AND HE'S GOING TO *RIP* THIS PLACE APART, YOU *COLD-BLOODED MACHINE!*

I'M NOT AS COLD-BLOODED AS YOU MAY BELIEVE.

LET ME SHOW YOU...

A BOTTLED CITY?

ANOTHER PLANET YOU DESTROYED?

AND YOU. HEY LUTHOR!

MY COUSIN ***TRUSTED YOU.*** AND IT WAS ALL A TRICK, WASN'T IT? YOU WERE ***ALWAYS*** WORKING WITH BRAINIAC.

I WORK FOR ***NO ONE.***

YOUR SMALL MIND WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND WHAT IS GOING ON HERE, SO ***SHUT IT.***

IS IT READY, LUTHOR?

HM.

BEEP.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! IF YOU ENLARGE THAT IN HERE, IT WILL DESTROY ***THE WHOLE SHIP!*** EVERYONE ON BOARD WILL EITHER BE STRANDED OR ***DIE*** IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE!

WATCH.

VRRRRRR

OH MY RAO...

IT'S COLU. BUT I THOUGHT YOUR HOME-WORLD WAS...

DESTROYED BY THE OMEGA TITANS?

INDEED.

BUT DID YOU REALLY THINK I DIDN'T COLLECT A CITY FROM MY HOMEWORLD AS WELL?

A KINGDOM FOR A QUEEN...

THAT'S ENOUGH INFO FOR ME, THANKS.

TRSH!

TRSH

YOU SAID I WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON, LEX?

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

GIVING YOU SOME TIME TO EXPLAIN IT TO ME!

YOU'RE CRAZY! YOU CAN'T FLY HERE!

OH YEAH!

ALERT THE OTHERS TO COLLECT SUPERGIRL.

BUT, LUTHOR IS NO LONGER NEEDED.

SHOOT TO KILL.

HARDCORE STATION.

THIS PLACE USED TO BE A ***BIG DEAL.*** IT WAS THE CROSSROADS FOR A LOT OF INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL. A REST STOP FOR THE WEARY, Y'KNOW?

BUT THEN AFTER SOME BAD BUSINESS MOVES IT BECAME A TOTAL HOTBED OF CRIME AND DEBAUCHERY.

MY KIND OF TOWN!

YOU SEE THE LOOKS ON THESE PEOPLE'S FACES, SUPERJERK? THE FEAR AND WORRY? THAT'S ***RESPECT.***

HOW ABOUT YOU AND I STAY AWHILE AND MAKE SOME BAD CHOICES TOGETHER?

WHY DID WE COME HERE, LOBO?

YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT BRAINIAC IS UP TO AND WHERE'S HE BEEN, ***RIGHT?*** WELL...I KNOW A GUY...

SPACE CABBIE!

TAXI

#*$%.

OH, NO NEED TO RUN, OL' BUDDY OF MINE. I JUST NEED SOME ***INFO*** FROM YA, THAT'S ALL.

YOU'RE THE EYES AND EARS OF THE GALAXY. PEOPLE RIDE IN YOUR CAB AFTER A FEW TOO MANY AND SPILL THEIR GUTS.

WHERE'S BRAINIAC HIDING OUT?

NO IDEA. ANYONE WITH ANY ***SMARTS*** IS KEEPING AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS THEY CAN.

ANY REASON OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS?

YEAH, WELL... ***YOU.***

WHAT NOW?

HE'S BEEN SENDING THAT ***CZARNIAN ARMY OF HIS*** DOWN TO ANY PLANET WITH POWERS, AND IT'S BEEN ***REAL BAD.***

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT PLANETS?

YOU DIDN'T HEAR?

BRAAL WAS A MASSACRE, BUT THAT WAS JUST THE START.

DON'T EVEN GET ME STARTED ON WHAT THEY DID TO ***TITAN...***

OH, THAT WAS A REAL BARN BURNER.

THOSE MIND READERS COULD SEE IN OUR HEAD WHAT WE WERE PLANNING TO DO TO THEM BEFORE WE DID...WAS A REAL HOOT.

NOW WHERE WERE WE? OH YEAH, KICKING YOUR ASS.

GOOD LUCK, LOBO! IF YOU NEED A RIDE LATER...

CALL SOMEONE ELSE!

HOW DID THEY FIND US HERE?

THE SAME WAY LOBO FOUND US...YER ***STENCH.***

NOW, WE COULD ***THROW DOWN*** AND YOU ***LOSE*** AND WE DRAG YOU RIGHT TO BRAINIAC.

OR WE COULD HAVE A LITTLE ***CHAT.***

MAKE OUR ***OWN*** DEAL.

I WOULD ***NEVER*** MAKE ANY KIND OF DEAL WITH YOU, CHACAL.

I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, KRYPTONIAN.

I'M TALKING TO MY BOY *LOBO* HERE.

IN OUR LITTLE VISITS TO THESE PLANETS, I'VE HEARD STORIES ABOUT YOU, BROTHA.

SOMETIMES YOU'RE THE BADDEST MAN IN THE UNIVERSE...

SOMETIMES YOU'RE A *JOKE.*

THAT SAYS TO ME YOU NEED *GUIDANCE.*

FRAG OFF!

IF YOU THINK I'M BENDING THE KNEE TO YOU, YOU GOT ANOTHER THING COMING.

LOBO, WE JUST NEED THEM TO GET US TO BRAINIAC--

YOU LET THIS KRYPTONIAN MAKE CHOICES FOR YOU, LOBO?

I NEED A SUCCESSOR. AND MY GUT TELLS ME IT'S *YOU.*

WHAT DO YOU SAY? BEING THE *MAIN MAN* IS EASY.

BUT DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE *THE BOSS?*

NAH NAH NAH. IT AIN'T LIKE THAT.

I WAS IN THAT DANG *BRAINIAC BOTTLE* FOR A LONG TIME. THE BIGGEST DOG IN A VERY SMALL YARD. BUT THIS DOG IS GETTING *OLD.*

NOW I'M MAN ENOUGH TO ADMIT WHEN IT'S TIME FOR ME TO STEP DOWN. BUT NONE OF THESE YAHOOS HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO STEP UP.

I SEE WHAT YOU'RE TRYING TO DO!

I'M UP TO THE CHALLENGE, YA *BASTICH!*

THEN I GUESS WE GOT OURSELVES A *HOUSE OF LOBO* NOW.

BUT YOU GOTTA SHOW US YOU MEAN BUSINESS.

TAKE OUT THE BOY SCOUT.

NEXT: DING DING DING! **FIGHT!** **LOBO** VERSUS ***SUPERMAN!*** IT'S ON NOW! IN *SUPERMAN* #14!

RIVERA

Action Comics #1065
variant cover art by **PAOLO RIVERA**

NOW.

MY FATHER HAS RETURNED.

AGAIN.

THAT MEANS I NEED TO LIE LOW WHILE I FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO.

HE CAME AT THE WORST TIME. I WAS LIVING THE GOOD LIFE WITH **L.E.G.I.O.N.** AND THE **UNITED PLANETS.** BUT THAT IS ALL A WASTE NOW.

HERE I AM ON **RIMBOR.** THE MOST CRIME-RIDDEN PLANET IN THE UNIVERSE...IN THE PAST I WOULD HAVE COME HERE AND TRIED TO CLEAN HOUSE...

BUT NOW I'VE HIT **ROCK BOTTOM.**

AND I'M SEEING MY WORST NIGHTMARE...

...MORE LOBOS.

LET'S GO, SMARTY-PANTS.

YOUR PRESENCE HAS BEEN REQUESTED.

DO US A FAVOR... ***RESIST.***

UUUUPPPP!

ZZZAPPP! SPT

FRAG ME.

GET HIM!

SSWISSH!

ZZZPPP

JUST AS RUDE AS THE REAL DEAL.

NO MORE TOYS, YA BASTICH!

KRAKK!!

YOU'RE COMING WITH US!

AT LEAST LET ME FINISH MY DRINK!

VRIL DOX...

...YOU ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT.

BRAINIAC AND SON

WRITER: JOSHUA WILLIAMSON ARTIST: MIRKO COLAK COLORIST: MIKE SPICER
LETTERER: DAVE SHARPE ASSISTANT EDITOR: JILLIAN GRANT EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI

THAT'S RICH.

IT REALLY IS. COMING FROM *YOU.*

YOU LITERALLY CREATED ME FROM YOUR OWN DNA.

AND THEN YOU EXPERIMENTED ON AND TORTURED ME FOR YEARS. SO I'M *SORRY* IF I DIDN'T TURN OUT TO BE...

...THE PERFECT OFFSPRING, DAD!

YOU WERE ALWAYS...

...TOO EMOTIONAL.

I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN VISITING PLANETS AND COLLECTING PEOPLE WITH *POWERS.*

THAT YOU MADE A STOP BY *EARTH,* TOO.

I HATE EARTH JUST AS MUCH AS YOU DO, BUT C'MON... LET IT GO. THERE ARE OTHER PLANETS IN THE SEA, Y'KNOW?

WHAT DO YOU WANT *NOW?*

I WANT... I WANT...

ZZZTTTT

WHAT IS *WRONG* WITH YOU?

I DON'T KNOW.

YOU... YOU *"DON'T KNOW"*?

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER HEARD YOU SAY THOSE WORDS BEFORE...

I...I HAVE UNCOVERED A HOLE IN MY KNOWLEDGE. A SECRET KEPT FROM ME.

AND I BELIEVE THAT HOLE IS CAUSING DAMAGE TO MY MIND.

BUT I KNOW A WAY TO GAIN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT I DON'T HAVE...

YOU'RE THE VERY DEFINITION OF *BOOK SMARTS* WITH NO *STREET SMARTS.*

YOU CAN STOP RIGHT THERE.

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE *MISSING.*

YOU MIGHT HAVE A *BEYOND TWELFTH-LEVEL* INTELLIGENCE...

...BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE BEST PARTS OF *LIFE.*

AND THE THING IS... YOU'LL *NEVER* GET IT.

YOU ARE INCAPABLE OF...

URK...

ENOUGH.

GO ON...

...DO IT.

SHOW ME...YOU CARE...

TAKE HIM TO COLU!

COUGH COUGH

WHAT...? COLU?

COLU IS GONE! DID YOU FORGET YOU HELPED LEAD TO ITS DESTRUCTION? YOU--

WHAT?

HOW... WHAT IS THIS?

I KNOW THIS CITY. I GREW UP HERE, BUT I THOUGHT--

UFF. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

LYRL...? INDIGO?

WHAT...HOW? WHY IS BRAINIAC COLLECTING US? WHAT DOES HE NEED US... FOR...?

NO... IT CAN'T BE...

...MOTHER?

TO BE CONTINUED IN SUPERMAN #14!

Superman #14 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

HARDCORE STATION.
DEEP SPACE.

BOOM

"I BET THEY HEARD THAT ONE ON EARTH-13."

OUCH. THAT'S GONNA LEAVE A MARK.

SHOULD WE STEP IN, GENERAL CHACAL?

NOT A CHANCE...

LET 'EM FIGHT!

C'MON, LOBO! GET 'IM WITH AN UPPERCUT!

PREVIOUSLY, IN *ACTION COMICS* #1064, *SUPERMAN* #13 AND *ACTION COMICS* #1065... METROPOLIS IS UNDER SIEGE! AN ARMY OF CZARNIAN FIGHTERS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED UPON THE CITY OF TOMORROW BY THE VILLAIN BRAINIAC... BUT TO WHAT END? WITH SUPERMAN'S FAMILY CAPTURED BY THE INVASION FORCE, THE MAN OF STEEL MUST TURN TO AN UNLIKELY ALLY FOR HELP...

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART 4 LAST SONS

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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. Supergirl based on the characters created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

LOBO, STOP!

WHOOSSHH

NO WAY, SUPER-JERK!

THIS FIGHT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING!

KRASH

ZZLPTT!

YOU CHEAT!

WE CAN'T KEEP DOING THIS...

IF WE KEEP THIS UP, HARDCORE STATION WILL BE DESTROYED...

LET'S TAKE THIS FIGHT OUTSIDE!

BOOM

LOBO, LISTEN TO ME.

THIS ISN'T A GAME. CHACAL IS *USING YOU.*

DO YOU REALLY WANT TO WORK FOR *BRAINIAC?*

KRAK

KRAK

THE MAIN MAN WORKS FOR NO ONE!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHY ARE YOU SIDING WITH THE CZARNIANS?!

WHAT? ARE YOU THE ONLY GUY WHO GETS TO BE HEAD OF HIS OWN *GANG?!*

AFTER THESE YEARS OF RIDING *SOLO,* MAYBE IT'S TIME I TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT, OKAY?

KRSH!

WHAT THE FRAG?!

I DON'T NEED YER HELP, GENERAL CHACAL!

MY CHAINS WERE FORGED IN THE FIRES OF APOKOLIPS, PAL. THEY AIN'T EASY TO BREAK, AND THE ***MISSION*** WAS TO BRING SUPERMAN BACK TO BRAINIAC, SO HE'D FREE THE REST OF MY GANG.

HEH, I MEAN ***YOUR*** GANG, LOBO.

YOU GOT THE STUFF, KID.

BRMM

NOW ***WE*** DO TOO. C'MON...

LET'S ROLL.

VVRRROMMMMM

HEY, BRAINY...YOU READ?

YES, GENERAL CHACAL?

WE'RE EN ROUTE TO YOU...

"...AND WE GOT THE KRYPTONIAN."

"THE CITIZENS OF YOUR WORLD SAW MY HOARDING OF CITIES AND KNOWLEDGE AS AN ACT OF DESTRUCTION.

"BUT I WAS SAVING THEM. ENSURING THEY HAD A LEGACY OF GREATNESS AS A PART OF *ME.* IF ONLY SUPERMAN HAD NOT STOPPED ME YEARS AGO, WE WOULD NEVER BE HERE TODAY.

"SUPERMAN'S MIND, LIKE MOST OTHERS, WAS TOO SMALL TO UNDERSTAND MY MOVES. THE CURSE OF *GENIUS.*

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, *LENA LUTHOR?*

YOUR FATHER SOUGHT TO HIDE YOU FROM US.

HE UNDERSTOOD THAT YOUR UNIQUE MIND WAS A GIFT...AND A *WEAPON.*

YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG *ME.*

I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM WHEN I WAS WITH YOU. *NOTHING.*

YOU WILL SOON ENOUGH.

THIS ALL STARTED WITH YOU.

IT IS FITTING THAT YOU BEAR WITNESS TO WHAT WE BRING INTO THE UNIVERSE...

"...AND NOW THERE IS NO ONE WHO CAN STOP ME."

ARE YOU INSANE?!

YOU'RE ONE TO TALK!

THE BOTTLE CITY OF COLU. ATOP BRAINIAC'S HIVESHIP.

NOW HOLD ON, BALDY!

CRUNCH

SMASH

RRRRRRRRRRRRRR

NOT MY FINEST LANDING, BUT THAT WILL DO.

DON'T GET ANY IDEAS.

PERISH THE THOUGHT, SUPERGIRL.

BRAINIAC'S HOMEWORLD WAS DESTROYED BY THE OMEGA TITANS. WE WERE THERE. WE SAW IT.*

BRAINIAC MUST HAVE COLLECTED THIS CITY LONG BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION. A PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE?

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT? *YOU* WERE WORKING WITH HIM...

*IN *JUSTICE LEAGUE: NO JUSTICE* --PK

HARDLY. I WAS DOING WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE TO ENSURE OUR ***SURVIVAL.***

WHEN I RESURRECTED BRAINIAC WITH THE LEGION OF DOOM...

"...I HAD TO GO INSIDE HIS VERY MIND TO DO IT.

"WHEN I WAS THERE, I SAW SOMETHING...

"...SOMETHING THAT DISTURBED ME GREATLY. BRAINIAC PROFESSES A VAST, COMPLETIONIST CATALOG OF KNOWLEDGE... BUT THERE ARE ***HOLES*** IN THAT CATALOG THAT ARE DRIVING HIM ***INSANE.***"

AND NATURE ABHORS A VACUUM.

EXACTLY. BRAINIAC HAS ABSORBED ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIVERSE, TIME, SPACE, AND BEYOND, AND BECAUSE BRAINIAC DENIES THE ***TRUTH*** OF WHAT HE IS MISSING...HIS MIND HAS FOUND SOMETHING TO PATCH THE HOLES...

...A NEW CREATURE OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...

...AND ***NO ONE*** SHOULD HAVE THAT KIND OF KNOWLEDGE.

YOU AND THE OTHERS LIKE YOU MAY DOUBT MY RECENT ***CHANGE,*** BUT I REALLY HAVE TRIED TO WALK THE NOBLE PATH.

AND I DO NOT WISH TO SEE OTHERS SUFFER... ESPECIALLY ALL OF CREATION...

I THOUGHT WITH THESE DIFFERENT VERSIONS OF HIM THAT BRAINIAC WAS JUST, LIKE...

...BUILDING A FAMILY FOR HIMSELF.

DON'T BE SO NAIVE.

HE'S CREATING--

THAT'S ENOUGH, LUTHOR!

YOU HARDLY KNOW WHEREOF YOU SPEAK.

AND NOW THAT WE HAVE THE LAST SON OF KRYPTON, WE NO LONGER NEED *YOU* OR THE *ARGOAN* TO ACHIEVE OUR AIMS.

I MIGHT NOT BE AT FULL STRENGTH, BUT IF YOU THINK I'M GOING WITHOUT A FIGHT...

...THEN ***YOU*** DON'T KNOW AS MUCH AS YOU ***THINK!***

TAKE ME BACK TO BRAINIAC PRIME, ***DRONE.*** I NEED TO SPEAK TO HIM.

YOU BELIEVE WE EVER TRUSTED YOU? WE KNEW YOU WOULD BETRAY US THE FIRST CHANCE YOU HAD.

HOWEVER, YOU ARE NO LONGER NEEDED. YOU HAVE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE FOR US. YOU WILL NOT STOP US.

YOUR *DEATH* IS *NOW*, LUTHOR.

ZAP

ZAP

GET DOWN!

VRIL DOX?

GET READY, MOTHER. AFTER WE PICK UP THE REST OF OUR LITTLE *FAMILY,* WE'RE GOING *UP.*

MOTHER?

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?

I CAN STOP AND PONTIFICATE OR WE CAN GET MOVING.

JUST SURPRISED, THAT'S ALL. LAST TIME I SAW *YOU,* YOU THREATENED TO DESTROY ALL OF EARTH.

I HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT MISSION RIGHT NOW...

"THE DEATH OF MY *FATHER.*"

I SHOULD APPLAUD HENSHAW'S DESIGN, METALLO. IT IS *INSPIRED.*

BUT YOUR METAL WAS NEEDED ELSE-WHERE.

IT IS *TIME,* MY *HIVE.* THE REASON I SEARCHED TIME AND SPACE FOR YOU HAS ARRIVED.

I KNOW SOME OF YOU WERE UNHAPPY BEING PULLED INTO MY PLANS.

TO GIVE UP YOUR OWN FREEDOM SO THAT WE COULD *SHARE* WHAT WE HAVE ALL LEARNED ACROSS OUR MANY LIVES.

...BUT TO DO THAT, I NEEDED UNIMAGINABLE *POWER.*

THAT'S WHERE *WE* COME IN.

WHAT WE DO NOW WILL TAKE ALL OUR MENTAL ENERGIES COMBINED TO CREATE SOMETHING *GREATER* THAN OUR OWN GENIUSES.

SUPERJERK DELIVERY!

DON'T FORGET TO TIP YOUR DRIVER!

SKRRK

WHERE IS MY FAMILY, BRAINIAC?

ALLOW ME TO REUNITE YOU.

YOU, SUPERMAN. I HAVE WATCHED YOU FOR YEARS. EVEN THOUGH THERE ARE OTHERS LIKE YOU, YOUR POWERS ARE DIFFERENT.

I USED TO BELIEVE YOUR EXTRAORDINARY ABILITIES WERE THE RESULT OF KRYPTONIAN EXPOSURE TO EARTH'S YELLOW SUN... BUT IT IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT, ISN'T IT?

I AM BEGINNING TO SEE WHERE ELSE YOU DRAW YOUR STRENGTH FROM...

SUPERMAN! HELP!

STAY CALM, KIDS! I'LL GET YOU OUT OF THERE!

BRAINIAC, LET THEM GO. YOU ONLY WANT ME.

AH!

TZ

WE ARE PAST WHAT I *WANT* OR *NEED*.

THIS IS SO MUCH BIGGER THAN THAT NOW.

OW! HEY!

TZ

TZ

TZ

MR. LUTHOR, WHERE *ARE* YOU?

BUT I UNDERSTAND THIS WILL ALSO MEAN SOME SACRIFICES OF MY OWN.

LET US BEGIN.

EEEEIIII!

AAAAHHHH!

KAKRAKAKAKRAKAKAKRAKAKAKRAKAKRAKAKAKRAKAKRAKAKAKR

THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT? OLD SMARTY-PANTS WANTED A LADY VERSION OF HIMSELF?

WHO CARES? OUR WORK HERE IS DONE. A DEAL IS A DEAL. BRAINIAC, YOU GOT YOUR POWER.

IT'S TIME LOBO AND I HIT THE ROAD AND TAKE OUR PEOPLE WITH US.

HELL YEAH.

TIME TO PARTY.

.....MY QUEEN.

WAIT.

THERE IS ANOTHER VALUE THAT YOU BRING, GENERAL.

A CRUCIAL ONE.

THERE IT IS.

THE BETRAYAL. *KNEW IT.*

BRING IT ON, YA BASTICH!

HOUSE OF LOBO VERSUS THE *HOUSE OF BRAINIAC!* MY CREW AND I CAN TAKE YOU BIG-BRAIN NERDS!

YEARS AGO, WHEN I FOUND YOUR WORLD AND STOLE YOUR CITY OF CHAOS, I *ALSO* STUDIED YOUR *DNA*.

YOU ARE INDESTRUCTIBLE. *IMMORTAL.*

BUT WHEN LOBO HERE COMMITTED HIS CZARNIAN GENOCIDE, HE PROVED YOU *COULD* DIE.

THK

THUK

NOW THE POWER OF THE KRYPTONIAN AND THE OTHERS FROM HIS WORLD HAVE ALLOWED *HER* CREATION.

MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT. MY LEGACY TO THE COSMOS.

BUT SHE NEEDS *FUEL* TO BE COMPLETE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE, GENERAL...

HHSSSSSSS
TAKE THIS, YA B--
FRAG US! SHE JUST ATE HIS--
RUN!
BRAINIAC... WHAT DID YOU MAKE?
OH MY GOD...
AND I THOUGHT I WAS BRUTAL...
YOU ARE PERFECTION, MY QUEEN.
WHAT DO YOU NEED?

MORE...

...POWER...

TO BE CONTINUED IN *ACTION COMICS* #1066:
LONG LIVE THE BRAINIAC QUEEN.

Action Comics #1066 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

BRAINIAC'S SHIP. DEEP SPACE.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!

YOU KILLED THEM, BRAINIAC!!

DON'T ACT AS IF YOU TRULY CARED ABOUT THE CZARNIANS, SUPERMAN.

THEY WERE A NECESSARY SACRIFICE.

FOR YEARS I HAVE HOARDED. COLLECTED. ABSORBED ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF TIME, SPACE, AND THE MULTIVERSE.

NOW I HAVE BROUGHT SOMETHING NEW INTO THE WORLD.

SHE IS MY MASTERPIECE.

SO PAY ATTENTION, LAST SON OF KRYPTON...

JUST AS SHE DID THE FALLEN CZARNIANS, MY QUEEN WILL DEVOUR YOU, YOUR ALLIES, AND YOUR ENEMIES.

THE METAHUMAN POWER I ACQUIRED SAVE HER LIFE, BUT IT WILL NOT SUSTAIN HER...

...YOUR ADOPTED HOMEWORLD WILL THEN BE FIRST TO QUENCH HER UNENDING HUNGER. FOLLOWED BY THE CITIES I HAVE COLLECTED.

WE WILL MOVE FROM WORLD TO WORLD, CONSUMING LIFE AS YOU KNOW IT TO ACHIEVE MY QUEEN'S FINAL FORM...

SHE WILL BE PERFECTION, UNSTOPPABLE, AND IF THAT MEANS THE END OF EVERYTHING...

THAT WILL BE THE HOUSE OF BRAINIAC'S TRUE LEGACY.

YOU FORGOT ABOUT SOMETHING, BIG BRAIN!

THE MAIN MAN!

I FINALLY FOUND A FAMILY THAT I ACTUALLY *LIKE*--

--AND YOU AND YOUR BIG BASTICH TOOK THAT AWAY FROM ME BEFORE I GOT THE CHANCE TO *NOT LIKE THEM.*

LOBO. MY QUEEN JUST EFFORTLESSLY SLAUGHTERED YOUR PEOPLE.

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE *YOU* HAVE A CHANCE?

I AIN'T NO DUMMY.

I KNOW A THING OR TWO ABOUT A THING OR TWO.

DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHAT I NEED TO KICK YOUR ASS INTO OBLIVION.

SMASH!

LOBO... WHAT'RE YOU...

I HATE TO SAY THIS, AND I'LL NEVER REPEAT IT--

CRASH!

--BUT I MESSED UP!

I CHOSE THE WRONG SIDE.

LET'S TAKE DOWN THIS *HOUSE OF DWEEBS* TOGETHER.

MY QUEEN...

KILL THEM ALL.

...HHHSSSS...

LOBO, I APPRECIATE YOU HELPING US, BUT MY POWERS HAVE BEEN PARTLY DEPLETED.

THEN YOU BETTER GET UP TO SPEED ***QUICK,*** OR WE'RE ALL BITING THE BIG ONE TOGETHER!

THE QUEEN REQUIRES MORE POWER.

TO DO THAT...I NEED A PIECE SET INTO MOTION LONG AGO...

YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE THE CHOSEN ONE, LENA LUTHOR.

WHAT...?

YOUR FATHER'S SPIRIT AND MOTHER'S IMMORTAL DNA, MERGED WITH MY OWN INTELLIGENCE, TURNED YOU INTO THE PERFECT AVATAR.

I OFFERED YOU ALL THE KNOWLEDGE IN THE UNIVERSE...

...AND YOU BETRAYED ME.

NO, NO, NO...

IT...

IT HURTS...

THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE ABSORBED HAS OVERWHELMED MY OWN INTERNAL SYSTEMS.

IT IS CAUSING... *GLITCHES.*

THE EFFORT TO RUN MY BODY, MY DRONES, THE DUPLICATES, THIS SHIP, *AND* THE QUEEN IS TAXING TOO MUCH FOR MY TWELFTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE TO CONTROL.

NOW *YOUR* MIND WILL PROCESS ALL OF IT.

IT WILL OF COURSE KILL YOU.

CONNER! BRAINIAC'S GOT LENA!

AH!

ON IT!

SMACK!

FRAG ME!

AHHH!

POWER!

WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING, SUPER-BABE!

WE'RE... WE'RE GOING TO LOSE. IT'S TOO MUCH...

THEN WHAT'RE YOU GONNA *DO* ABOUT IT?

MINE.

THE CHAINED HAD MY POWERS, MY ***TACTILE TELEKINESIS...*** AND I SAW WHAT HE COULD DO WITH THEM. HE WAS ABLE TO EXTEND HIS FIELD OF CONTROL ***BEYOND*** WHAT HE TOUCHED.*

TO IMPACT EVERYTHING MY FIELD CONNECTS TO...

OKAY, BRAINIAC...YOU WANT MORE POWER? THAT SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR...

*AS SEEN IN THE NOW-CLASSIC SUPERMAN VOL. 2: THE CHAINED. --PK

SUPERBOY!
THOOOOM!
TZTZTZZ-CRACKK
YOU FOOL!
KRAKAKKAKKAA
KUMMMMBLL

POWER... FADES...GONE... HOW?

MY QUEEN!

SHE NEEDS THIS WHOLE SHIP TO BE FULLY OPERATIONAL... SHE WASN'T READY...

I NEED MORE POWER, OR I WILL... I...

TZ TZ TZ TZ TZ

I... I... WHAT IS WRONG WITH ME?

WHAT IS THIS *ABOUT*, BRAINIAC?

YOU KIDNAPPED MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO DO WHAT...A *POWER GRAB*?

YOUR MIND IS TOO SMALL TO UNDERSTAND.

TRY ME.

THERE WAS A HOLE IN MY KNOWLEDGE.

A SECRET KEPT FROM ME.

AND IT TURNED INTO AN *INFECTION*.

KTHOOM

IT'S *NOT* AN INFECTION.

THEN WHAT IS IT?

YOU RECRUITED OTHERS TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH.

YOU CREATED SOMEONE TO PASS YOUR KNOWLEDGE ON TO. IT'S CLEAR WHAT YOU WERE SEARCHING FOR. WHAT YOU NEEDED...

SHUT UP!

ALL THE KNOWLEDGE OF SPACE AND TIME IS MINE.

YOU ARE NOT SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT I NEED.

HOW CAN YOU BE SO *SMART*...

...AND MISS THE *OBVIOUS.*

YOU KIDNAPPED US AND HID US AWAY.

RESTORED COLU.

SUPERMAN WAS RIGHT, FATHER. IT IS CLEAR WHAT WAS MISSING FROM YOUR PRECIOUS KNOWLEDGE.

LYSL?

MY DEAR HUSBAND... IT HAS BEEN SO LONG.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO YOURSELF?

BEFORE YOU HAD ALL OF *THIS*...*WE* WERE YOUR FAMILY ONCE...

YOU'RE RIGHT...

AND WE CAN BE AGAIN.

MY POWERS MUST BE BACK, OTHERWISE THAT HIT SHOULD HAVE KILLED ME...

SUPERMAN!

LOBO FREED US!

ARE WE GOING HOME NOW?

OTHO! OSUL!

LOIS IS GOING TO BE VERY HAPPY TO SEE YOU TWO.

HEY, SUPER-JERK. THIS WHOLE JOINT IS COMING *DOWN.*

I KNOW I STOPPED THE QUEEN, BUT I DIDN'T MEAN TO PUT US IN EXTRA DANGER LIKE THIS.

IT'S OKAY, CONNER. YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.

SO JUST A HEADS-UP BUT SOME OF US *CAN'T* JUST FLY OR HOLD OUR BREATH IN SPACE.

BRAINIAC'S GOTTA HAVE ESCAPE PODS, RIGHT?

WHAT ABOUT THE WARP TELEPORTERS HE WAS USING TO TAKE THE CITIES? MAYBE WE CAN USE THOSE TO GET US OUT OF HERE?

IT'S MORE THAN JUST GETTING *US* ALL OUT OF HERE, KON.

WE MUST GET THE *CITIES* AS WELL.

IN THE PAST I WAS ABLE TO SAVE KANDOR AND METROPOLIS...BUT THIS TIME...

...WE SAVE *EVERYONE.*

GRAB A BOTTLED CITY AND HUDDLE UP-- WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE...

EASIER SAID THAN DONE, BOY SCOUT.

HOW THE FRAG ARE WE DEALING WITH THE BRAINIACS?

I HAVE AN IDEA.

A WAY TO STOP BRAINIAC ONCE AND FOR ALL.

LUTHOR!

YOU KNEW WHAT BRAINIAC WAS PLANNING, DIDN'T YOU?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

LISTEN, I WAS FURIOUS WITH LEX, TOO.

BUT YOU NEED TO HEAR HIM OUT, CUZ.

THANK YOU, KARA.

I KNOW I SOMETIMES MAKE MOVES THAT GO OVER EVERYONE'S HEADS, BUT...

YOU MUST *TRUST* ME.

WHY? I TRUSTED YOU IN METROPOLIS AND YOU LIED TO ME ABOUT BRAINIAC.

BECAUSE I WAS *AFRAID* OF WHAT BRAINIAC COULD DO TO *LENA.*

BUT IF YOU WANT ANSWERS, *FINE.*

BRAINIAC WOULD NEVER SHARE HIS NAME OR HIS ROLE IN THE UNIVERSE.

YOU SEE WHAT HE'S BUILT HERE?

"THIS *HOUSE OF BRAINIAC?*

KNOWLEDGE EQUALS *POWER. POWER* EQUALS *KNOWLEDGE.* THAT'S WHAT BRAINIAC SAID. THAT WAS KEY.

HE NEEDS TO SPREAD OUT ACROSS MULTIPLE BODIES VIA A *HIVE MIND* WITHIN THE SHIP BECAUSE HIS ONE BODY CANNOT SUSTAIN THAT LEVEL OF KNOWLEDGE AND POWER.

BUT WHEN I WAS HELPING BRAINIAC CREATE HIS QUEEN, I STUDIED HIS DESIGNS AND PLANS AND BUILT A HIDDEN BACK ENTRANCE INTO HIS PROGRAMMING...

I'M GOING TO USE MY OWN MIND TO BECOME ***ONE*** WITH THE ***MASTER BRAIN HIVE*** AND TAKE CONTROL OF BRAINIAC'S ENTIRE NETWORK.

LUTHOR

LUTHOR, YOU CAN'T...

I HAVE TO SAVE MY DAUGHTER, SUPERMAN.

WOULD YOU STOP ME FROM SAVING ***ANYONE?***

...

HOW CAN I HELP?

THE MOMENT I TURN THIS ON, BRAINIAC WILL KNOW WHAT I'M DOING AND WILL SEND HIS ARMY TO KILL ME.

YOU WILL NEED TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM US.

WE CAN DO THAT.

I KNOW.

THIS IS A *LOT* OF BRAINIACS FOR US TO FIGHT, COUSIN.

HOW ABOUT I EVEN THE ODDS?

I OWE BRAINIAC A FEW SHINERS FOR KILLING MY PEOPLE ANYWAY.

ONLY *I* GET TO DO THAT, Y'KNOW?

HM. IF WE SURVIVE BRAINIAC'S ARMY...

YOU DON'T JUST FIGHT *MY* ARMY, SUPERMAN.

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC
PART 5

YOU FIGHT MY FAMILY AS WELL!

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EDITOR: PAUL KAMINSKI
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
SUPERBOY CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL.
SUPERGIRL BASED ON THE CHARACTERS CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER. BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN SUPERMAN #15!

Action Comics #1066
variant cover art by PAOLO RIVERA

Rivera

"I REMEMBER...

"MY MOTHER.

"MY FATHER.

"LEX LUTHOR TOLD ME THAT SOMEDAY HIS KINGDOM WOULD BE MINE...

"HE LIED.

"YEARS AGO, MY FATHER GAVE ME TO THE ALIEN KILLER OF WORLDS KNOWN AS *BRAINIAC* IN EXCHANGE FOR TECHNOLOGY FROM THE FUTURE.

"I FOUGHT BY HIS SIDE...

"BUT AFTER A LIFETIME IN THE FUTURE, I RETURNED AS BRAINIAC'S *AVATAR.*

"...UNTIL I SIDED WITH MY *TRUE* FATHER TO SAVE THE WORLD.

"BRAINIAC WAS DISPLEASED AND... I...I...I..."

"IT'S OKAY, LENA... LEAVE THAT PAINFUL MEMORY BEHIND..."

"...FOR A BETTER ONE.

"WE WERE BOTH PULLED INTO A WAR OF WORLDS...

"...WHEN IT WAS ALL OVER, SUPERMAN DID SOMETHING I COULDN'T

"HE SAVED YOU

"SUPERMAN TOLD ME TO BE A BETTER MAN.

"TO FOCUS ON YOU AND TO NEVER LET YOU GO."

BUT YOU DID.

WHAT IS THIS?

HOW ARE YOU HERE?

WE'RE TRAPPED ABOARD THE HIVE SHIP, LENA. BRAINIAC PLUGGED *YOU* INTO THE VERY SHIP AS A HUB FOR HIS ARMY AND QUEEN...

I WAS ABLE TO CONNECT MY OWN MIND TO IT SO WE'RE INSIDE YOUR MEMORIES

YOU REMEMBER THIS?

BITS AND PIECES. IMAGES.

BUT HOW CAN I? I WAS JUST A BABY.

YOU WERE *NEVER* JUST A BABY...

"THE TESTS PROVED THAT.

"YOUR TIME WITH BRAINIAC IN THE FUTURE TURNED YOU INTO A ***SUPERCOMPUTER.*** EVERY CELL IN YOUR BODY WAS STRONGER THAN ANY COMPUTER I'D EVER SEEN.

"BRAINIAC MAY HAVE 12TH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE, BUT EVEN THAT IS LIMITING.

"*YOU* DID NOT *HAVE* THOSE LIMITS.

"I MANAGED TO SLOW YOUR AGING AND REMOVE BRAINIAC'S CONNECTIONS, BUT IT TOOK...DELICATE WORK.

"AND IT WAS ***MORE*** THAN THAT YOU WERE BACK IN MY CARE FOR LESS THAN A DAY AND ALREADY AGED ***TWO YEARS.***

"YOUR BODY WAS PROGRAMMED TO AGE AT AN ***ACCELERATED RATE*** AS IT ABSORBED INFORMATION.

"IF BRAINIAC EVER FOUND YOU AGAIN...

"I COULDN'T LET THAT HAPPEN."

"SO YOU BANISHED ME...

"...TO LIVE WITH *GRANDMA*, WHO HATED LIVING THERE SO MUCH THAT SHE MADE MY LIFE A LIVING *HELL*.

"YOU WERE RIGHT. MY AGING SLOWED DOWN, BUT MY MIND WAS ALWAYS HUNGRY FOR *KNOWLEDGE*.

"I LEARNED AS MUCH AS I COULD.

"ABOUT *EVERYTHING*.

"BUT MY FAVORITE WAS *PROBLEM-SOLVING*.

"ANY KIND OF GAME I COULD DO ALONE... SINCE I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE ANYONE ELSE THERE WITH ME."

"I WOULD HARDLY CALL WHAT YOU DID A *VISIT*. YOU WOULD SHOW UP, STARE AT ME FOR A FEW MINUTES, AND THEN JUST...*LEAVE*.

I HAVE TO BE HONEST...IT WAS A REALLY LONELY WAY TO GROW UP.

AAHHH!

WHAT IS HAPPENING?!

BRAINIAC'S CORRUPTION OF YOUR MIND IS TAKING HOLD. MANIPULATING YOUR MEMORIES TO FIND AND HURT YOU...

WE NEED TO GO...

"WHAT IS THIS?"

MY MEMORIES.

THE NIGHT WE WERE REUNITED.

I WAS UP ALL NIGHT THINKING OF OPTIONS.

"IT WAS THAT NIGHT THAT I REALIZED I WAS NOT THE SMARTEST MAN ON THE PLANET.

"BECAUSE I COULD NOT FIND ANOTHER WAY TO PROTECT YOU

AND THAT I COULD NEVER BE WHAT SUPERMAN SAID...

I SENT YOU AWAY BECAUSE I DIDN'T *DESERVE* YOU.

I DIDN'T WANT YOU BACK IN MY LIFE UNTIL I WAS SOMETHING *BETTER.*

RECENTLY... WORKING WITH SUPERMAN, I REALLY TRIED...

BUT THEN BRAINIAC RETURNED.

HE WAS ALWAYS SPYING ON ME, BUT WHEN YOU STARTED TO WORK AT *SUPERCORP* HE LEARNED YOU WERE STILL ALIVE...

I THOUGHT I COULD KEEP YOU SAFE... I COULDN'T.

AH, WHAT NOW?!

WE'RE OUT OF *TIME.*

THANKFULLY WE'RE ALREADY CONNECTED TO BRAINIAC'S MIND...

THAT WAS *HIS* MISTAKE, RIGHT?

IF WE GO DEEPER INTO THIS *HIVE MIND,* WE CAN DISRUPT HIS CONNECTIONS WITH THE DRONES AND THE SHIP.

EXACTLY...

IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP HIM.

YOU ARE MISTAKEN, LUTHOR.

YOU HAVE BEEN INSIDE THE BRAINIAC HIVE MIND BEFORE.

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU SEEK TO DO IS IMPOSSIBLE.

YOUR EARTH INTELLIGENCE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME.

YOU NEVER ***UNDERSTOOD*** WHY YOU LOST TO SUPERMAN ALL THOSE TIMES. AND AS MUCH AS I HATE TO ADMIT IT...NEITHER DID I, REALLY.

BUT NOW...I FEEL LIKE I KNOW SOMETHING YOU DON'T.

I DOUBT THAT.

AS FOR ***YOU***, LENA...

YOU COULD HAVE BEEN THE TRUE DESCENDANT OF VRIL DOX. THE CULMINATION OF ALL OUR WORK.

BUT NOW THAT HONOR IS BESTOWED UPON THE ***QUEEN.***

YOUR FIGHT HERE IS POINTLESS.

YOU THINK THIS IS US ***FIGHTING?***

WE WERE JUST ON A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE...

THIS IS US FIGHTING!

GO, LENA! I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!

TEDIOUS.

EVEN YOU, LEX, MUST SEE...

...YOU'VE ALREADY LOST.

DAD!

NO! LENA! I WON'T LET YOU TAKE HER AGAIN.

EVEN IF IT...

...KILLS ME...

LENA AND LEX

WRITER: *JOSHUA WILLIAMSON* ARTIST: *LAURA BRAGA*
COLORIST: *PRASAD RAO (PRESSY)* LETTERER: *DAVE SHARPE*
ASSISTANT EDITOR: *JILLIAN GRANT* EDITOR: *PAUL KAMINSKI*

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

TO BE CONCLUDED IN *SUPERMAN* #15!

Superman #15 cover art by
RAFA SANDOVAL with ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ

BRAINIAC HIVESHIP.
DEEP SPACE.

KKZZZT

KRASH

BOOM

KR-KRACK

THOOM

DAD!

I HAVE YOU, LENA!

BUT WE MUST HOPE THE MAN OF STEEL AND HIS ILK ARE SKILLED ENOUGH TO PROTECT *US* FROM BRAINIAC'S ARMY!

"I SENSE LEX LUTHOR AND HIS OFFSPRING INSIDE *MY HIVE MIND...*"

...BUT, IT WON'T MATTER, SUPERMAN.

YOU, THE CZARNIAN, AND YOUR COUSIN CANNOT PROTECT THEM.

ONCE MY QUEEN IS REPAIRED...YOU WILL JOIN THEM IN *DEATH*.

THEN EVERYTHING IN TIME AND SPACE WILL FALL TO HER IMPOSSIBLE *WRATH*.

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO YOUR OWN FAMILY, BRAINIAC?!

HOUSE OF BRAINIAC

PART 6 FINALE

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Superman created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
Superboy created by Jerry Siegel. Supergirl based on the characters created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster. By special arrangement with the Jerry Siegel family.

"FAMILY"... A CURIOUS DISTINCTION... BUT ONE I HAVE MASTERED, OF COURSE

THIS HIVE CRAVED SUCH DISTINCTION...

...AND I HAVE GIVEN THEM THAT GIFT

MY WAY.

I WON'T FIGHT YOUR WIFE AND CHILDREN, BRAINIAC!

WHHOSSSHHH

FIGHTING IS IRRELEVANT CREATION IS ALL THAT MATTERS NOW.

MY QUEEN. SHE WAS PERFECT.

AND YOUR FAMILY BROKE HER!

Y'KNOW... I WASN'T SURE IF MY POWERS WERE FULLY BACK...

...UNTIL *JUST NOW,* SO...

...THANKS!

ALL THE MORE POWER FOR MY QUEEN TO FEED ON.

I WILL CONTROL YOUR MIND, JUST AS I HAVE THE HIVE'S AND MY FAMILY'S.

THEN I WILL TIE YOU TO A ROCK ORBITING YOUR YELLOW SUN, SO MY QUEEN CAN FEED ON YOU AND YOUR POWERS UNTIL THE END OF TIME.

LOOK AT WHAT IS LEFT OF YOUR SO-CALLED ALLIES, SUPERMAN!

THE CZARNIAN AND YOUR COUSIN ARE NO MATCH FOR ME. THEY WILL FALL AND THEN SO WILL LENA AND LEX.

YOU ARE OVERWHELMED!

THE HOUSE OF BRAINIAC HAS WON.

HOW ABOUT WE EVEN THE ODDS?!

HAPPY TO SEE EVERYONE, BUT I TOLD YOU TO SAVE THE BOTTLED CITIES AND GET TO SAFETY!

WHAM

WE TRIED TO, BIG GUY!

BUT BIG GREENIE WAS AN EPIC HOARDER AND HAD TOO MANY!

WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET THEM AND EVERYONE OFF THIS SHIP BEFORE IT IMPLODES!

CRASH!

THIS ONLY DELAYS THE INEVITABLE.

ONCE MY QUEEN IS BACK UP AND RUNNING.

"...SHE WILL DEVOUR YOU ALL."

THAT IS THE LAST OF BRAINIAC 13'S SENTRIES!

!

BUT WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, DAD.

BRAINIAC AND HIS QUEEN ARE STARTING TO REBOOT...

THERE IT IS. THE CORE OF BRAINIAC'S *HIVE MIND.*

WHERE ALL HIS KNOWLEDGE AND MEMORIES ARE STORED.

IN THE PAST I WOULD HAVE LOVED TO HAVE ACCESS TO IT...

...WOULD HAVE DONE EVERYTHING I COULD DO TO CONTROL THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE.

BUT NOW I SEE THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE THAN KNOWLEDGE AND POWER.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

ERASE IT. TAKE AWAY BRAINIAC'S GREATEST WEAPON. ***HIS BRAIN.***

BUT I MUST CONNECT MY MIND TO IT DIRECTLY.

DAD, YOU ***CAN'T...*** YOUR MIND WILL BE OVERPOWERED BY BRAINIAC'S TWELFTH-LEVEL INTELLIGENCE.

I'M SCARED... BRAINIAC SAID THAT ONLY ***MY*** MIND HAS THE ABILITY TO HANDLE HIS KNOWLEDGE, BUT IT COULD KILL ME...

NO! IT WILL BE WORTH IT TO SAVE YOU...

...AND MY FRIENDS.

CONNECT AND BEGIN... ***DELETION.***

ZZZZZZ

AAAHHHHHH!

AAARRRGGGHHH--
NO!

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 99%.

UHHHH, GAME OVER?

THE BRAINIACS ARE ALL SHUTTING DOWN.

IT'S LIKE A LIGHT SWITCH WENT OFF.

WHAT...?

IT'S MORE THAN THAT, MOTHER...

OUR CONNECTION TO YOUR FATHER IS GONE.

DAD, YOU DID IT... BRAINIAC'S KNOWLEDGE IS CRASHING...

BUT NOW...

UGH...

"...THE SHIP IS GOING TO *IMPLODE.*"

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 75%

KRSRTSH

RUMBLE RUMBLE

WE'RE OUTTA TIME!

YOU HEARD SUPERMAN, CONNER. WE'RE NOT LEAVING WITHOUT THE STOLEN CITIES!

I GOT IT.

IF BRAINIAC'S BIG BRAIN CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO SHRINK STUFF...

...SO CAN THE *MAIN MAN.*

KARA, KON, KENAN, GET EVERYONE BACK TO *METROPOLIS.*

LOBO, CAN I TRUST YOU TO GET THOSE CITIES TO A SAFE LOCATION?

I OWE YOU ONE FOR THAT WHOLE *STABBING-YOU-IN-THE-BACK THING* ANYWAY.

WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO, CUZ?

BRAINIAC AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT...

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED... *DAD?*

YOUR FAMILY AROUND YOU AT YOUR *DEATH-BED?*

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 40%

VRIL... MY SON...

HELP... ME...

NOT A CHANCE. YOU LOST ANY KIND OF MERCY FROM US LONG AGO.

GOODBYE, FATHER.

IF I DIE TODAY, SO WILL--

ZZZpP...FSSSSS

BRAINIAC!

YOU TOOK MY *FAMILY.*

YOU HURT MY FRIENDS!

YOU KILLED A WHOLE CIVILIZATION!

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 35%

WHY?!

I NEEDED YOUR *POWER.*

YOU WERE NEVER A *LIAR,* BRAINIAC.

MY MIND... MY KNOWLEDGE WASTES AWAY... WITH EACH PASSING SECOND MORE AND MORE IS TAKEN FROM ME.

AND ALL I AM LEFT WITH ARE...

...THESE *EMOTIONS...*

I FEEL... ANGER. SADNESS. LOSS... THEY CLOUD MY EVERY THOUGHT...

HOW CAN ANYONE LIVE LIKE THIS?

THAT'S LIFE.

YOU LEARN TO SHARE IT WITH THE PEOPLE YOU LOVE.

TO ***CONNECT*** AND NOT TRY TO BEAR THE WHOLE BURDEN BY YOURSELF.

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 25%

EVEN WITH MY INTELLIGENCE DIMINISHED, I AM STILL A THOUSAND TIMES SMARTER THAN YOU, KRYPTONIAN.

BRAINIAC, COME WITH ME.

NOW! BEFORE WE ARE OUT OF TIME!

COLU IS ALL I HAVE LEFT FROM MY PAST...

SAVE IT... SUPERMAN.

I WILL... FOLLOW YOU...

WHOOSH!

"SUPERMAN, IF YOU CAN HEAR ME...I OFFER YOU...A WARNING.

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 20%

"I HAVE WITNESSED THE CREATION AND END OF TIME AND SPACE. PIECES NO ONE HAS SEEN.

"THE SOURCE DOOR. THE GREAT HEALING. THE MILLIONTH WORLD. THE CRISIS GAUNTLET"

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 18%

THE UNIVERSE HAS BEEN REVEALED TO ME IN ITS TOTALITY.

"AND ULTIMATELY, I LEARNED THERE IS ONE TRUTH.

EVERYTHING DIES.

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 16%

"AND ONE DAY..."

VRIL, WHERE'S *SUPERMAN?!*

I'LL BE FRAGGED... LOOK...

"...YOU AND YOUR POWERS WILL NOT BE ENOUGH..."

"...YOU WILL LOSE...

...JUST, AS YOUR FATHER DID...

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 10%

THERE IS...STILL... TIME...

WARP DRIVE ENGAGED. ESCAPE POD COMMENCE.

AFTER ALL THE KNOWLEDGE I HAVE STOLEN, I FELT A HOLE INSIDE OF ME...I KNEW THAT I TOO WOULD DIE SOMEDAY... SO I TRIED TO CREATE SOMETHING THAT WOULD OUTLAST ME...

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 7%

...SOMETHING NEW.

I GIVE YOU ALL...THAT I'AM.

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 4%

...I MAY... BE GONE FOR NOW...

...BUT, YOUR STORY... IS ONLY BEGINNING...

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 2%.

VVVVVRRRRR

...MY QUEEN...

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE-

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

BRAINIAC INTELLIGENCE AT 1%

BOOM

BOOM

"YOU FIND ANY TRACES OF BRAINIAC OR THAT MONSTER HE MADE?"

"WE SEARCHED THE WRECKAGE AND FOUND NOTHING. BRAINIAC SAID HE WOULD FOLLOW ME. BUT THERE ARE NO TRACES OF HIM OR THE QUEEN.

"BUT MY FOCUS WAS ON MAKING SURE OUR PEOPLE GOT HOME

...AND REUNITED WITH THEIR LOVED ONES

"LIVEWIRE AND PARASITE NEED TO BE PUT BACK IN STRYKER'S, BUT THEY EARNED A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION.

"POWER GIRL, JOHN HENRY, AND NATASHA HAD THEIR OWN HEADACHES WHILE WE WERE GONE. BUT KEPT THE CITY SAFE.

"DID YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR WORD WITH BRAINIAC'S BOTTLED CITIES, LOBO?"

"DAMN RIGHT I DID. SORT OF.

"VRIL AND HIS KIN DID THE HEAVY LIFTING. VRIL KNEW HIS DADDY'S TECH AND WHAT TO DO WITH IT.

"THEY DIDN'T *JUST* ENLARGE BRAINIAC'S TINY BOTTLES...THEY MADE SOMETHING *NEW*...

"COLU 2.0.

"ALL THOSE LOST CITIES ON SOME GIANT MELTING POT OF A PLANET...GOING TO BE *ABSOLUTE CHAOS.*"

MY KIND OF GIG. I THINK I'LL HEAD OUT THERE AND SEE WHAT KIND OF TROUBLE MEETS ME.

I'M SORRY ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR PEOPLE.

IT'S ALL GOOD. I'M ONLY PEEVED I DIDN'T GET TO TAKE THEM OUT MYSELF.

LOBO...

DAILY PLANET

DON'T GET ALL TEARY-EYED WITH ME, SUPERJERK. I LIKE THE NEW YOU.

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID...

..."ANGER IS A GIFT."

LAST SONS, RIGHT?

LATER, YA BAD BASTICH!

NEXT TIME WE'LL HAVE A REAL FIGHT!

IT'S ALWAYS REAL...

HEY!

YOU DONE TALKING TO THAT ALIEN BOUNTY-HUNTER FRENEMY OF YOURS?

HAPPY TO SEE YOU TOO, SMALLVILLE. THE KIDS TOLD ME HOW YOU GOT EVERYONE BACK, BUT...

...DID YOU FIND OUT WHAT BRAINIAC WAS REALLY AFTER?

I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA...

I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR DAY OFF. WE COULD ALWAYS GET A DO-OVER WHEN THINGS CALM DOWN.

DO THEY EVER REALLY CALM DOWN WITH US?

STILL, I WANTED US TO CELEBRATE WHEN WE--

SUPERMAN?

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU HERE, BUT...

...WE NEED TO TALK.

AND WE WILL, LENA.

BUT FIRST, I NEED TO SAY SOMETHING.

SUPERMAN, YOU DON'T--

BUT I DO.

LUTHOR, I WAS WRONG WHEN I DOUBTED YOU. I KNOW YOU WERE DOING ALL OF THIS TO PROTECT LENA.

YOU HAVE PROVEN YOURSELF ONCE AGAIN TO BE THE MAN YOU PROMISED TO BE.

I'M *PROUD* OF YOU.

LUTHOR?

LEX?

I'M SORRY, WERE YOU SPEAKING TO ME?

WHO IS LEX LUTHOR?

NEXT ISSUE, SUPERMAN AND ZATANNA TEAM UP AS *ABSOLUTE POWER* RAGES...BUT FIRST...

KRAANG

KRAANG

KRAANG

KRAANG

KRACK

TO BE CONTINUED THIS FALL!

It's order versus chaos as the House of Brainiac clashes with the House of El—and the Main Man!

Time and time again, Superman has struggled with Brainiac, the most advanced artificial intelligence the Multiverse has ever known. Yet nothing can prepare Kal-El for an invasion by a mercenary army of Czarnians, all of whom are as powerful and bloodthirsty as Lobo himself. Add the wild card of Lex Luthor, and it's true chaos lightning in a bottle(d city)! Superman can beat each threat individually, but can he fight a Czarnian horde *and* Lex Luthor *and* every Brainiac thrown at him? Or has the Last Son of Krypton finally run out of time?

From **Joshua Williamson** (*Batman*, *The Flash*), **Rafa Sandoval** (*Black Adam*, *The Flash*), and **Edwin Galmon** (*Batman/Superman: World's Finest*) comes a thrilling, blockbuster ride leading into the exciting Absolute Power event! No Kryptonian is safe from the literal machinations of Brainiac unleashing his ultimate protocols!

SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN... THIS MONSTER!"